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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

27 JUN

$1.50

HIGH SOCIETY

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Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

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Dave Sim is willing to do Ball Point Sketches for $100 each.
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A Note from the Publisher

Hi again. This issue I have some news and information that I am long overdue to pass on to everyone. First of all, for those of you who are Cerebus newsletter subscribers, issue #2 and #3 are ready to go to press. If you haven't converted your subscription to Fan Club membership, now would be a good time. Dave worked hard on putting together a certificate that will go to each member. We are also working on a special membership card and a "Friends of Cerebus" button that will be available ONLY through the Fan Club. (The Cerebus Fan Club will hold its first official meeting at the San Diego Con in July, which Dave will be attending.) Going back to the newsletter, issue #2 will have lots of artwork (thank you to everyone who sent theirs in) and issue #3 will feature an interview that Dave gave last winter at a convention in Ottawa. Glenn Lisle (who did the interview) has been following Dave's work for quite some time and so the interview (which Dave later suggested be sent to the newsletter) goes into depth on some interesting points. If you are interested in getting the newsletter (it's part of the package when you join the Fan Club) please contact Fred Patten. his address is listed in the black box to the right of this column.

Also, for those of you who are budding journalists and would like to write up something on Cerebus and need information, please contact our publicist (address in black box to the right, also). We'd love to handle all of this ourselves, but then the book would never get done!!

Also in that little black box, you will see that we now have several distributors. These people are not only reliable but also are people who enjoy Cerebus and have made it possible for us to continue publishing.

If you are interested in carrying Cerebus or know of someone who is, they will be happy to help you out.

As you probably noticed on the back cover of last issue, Aardvark-Vanaheim is embarking on a new adventure!! Our new title, "Unique Stories" will feature in its premiere issue the work of Toronto's Arn Saba. His strip, "Neil the Horse", has been a favorite of Dave's for a long time. I fell in love with his simple style from the first time I saw it. We hope that you enjoy it as much as we do. Doing Cerebus was a big chance for us, it was so different from all the other stuff we saw around, but Dave has always felt that comic fans were ready for something new. We are again stating that with "Unique Stories" and ask that you give the artists we showcase in it a good serious look. I'll be looking foward to hearing from you when it comes out this fall. See you next issue!

Deni

CEREBUS

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If you want information on Cerebus (news, quotes, etc.) contact our Publicity Agent:

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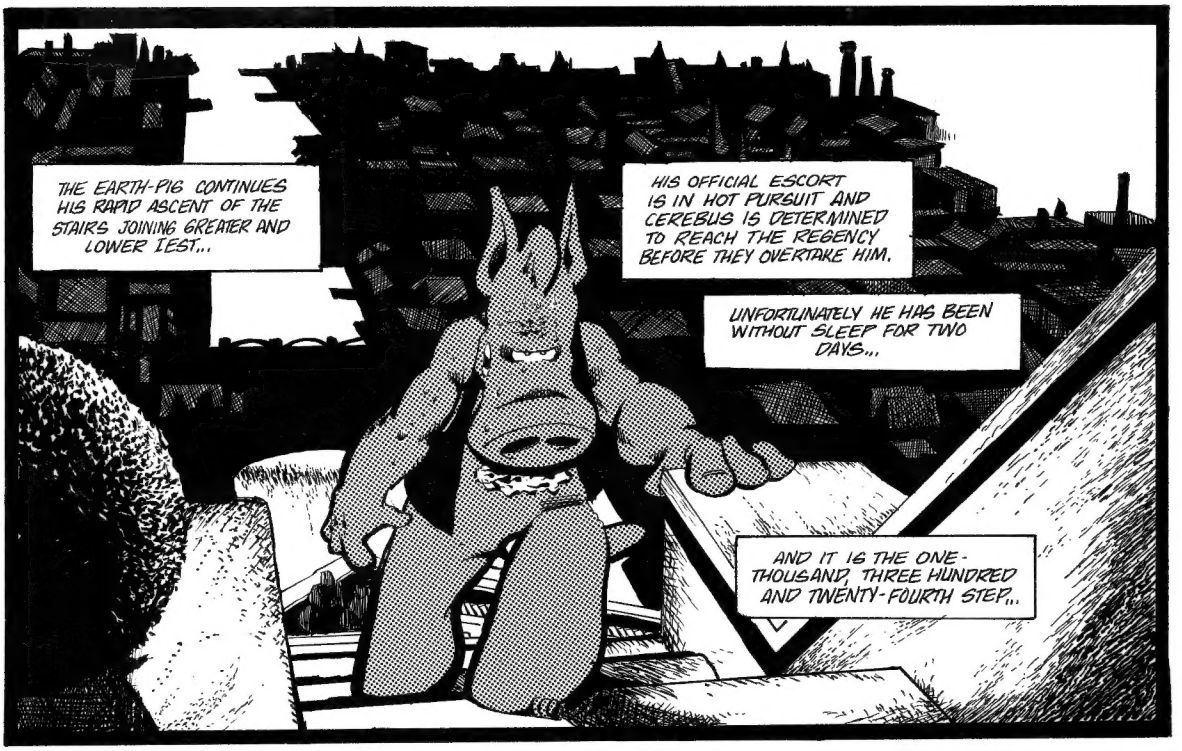
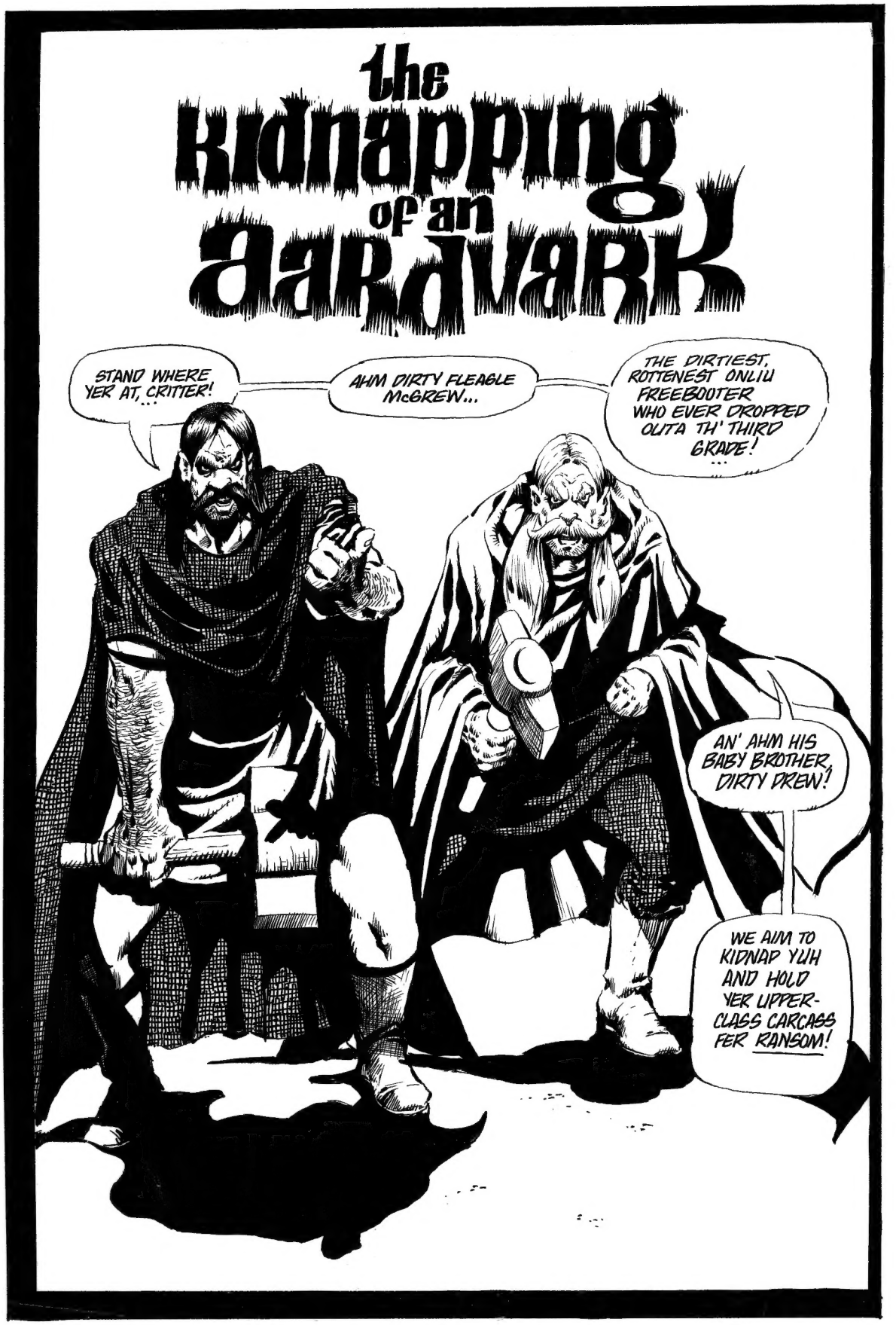

THE EARTH-PIG CONTINUES HIS RAPID ASCENT OF THE STAIRS JOINING GREATER AND LOWER IEST...
HIS OFFICIAL ESCORT IS IN HOT PURSUIT AND CEREBUS IS DETERMINED TO REACH THE REGENCY BEFORE THEY OVERTAKE HIM.
UNFORTUNATELY HE HAS BEEN WITHOUT SLEEP FOR TWO DAYS...
AND IT IS THE ONE-THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH STEP...

...THAT PROVES TOO MUCH FOR THE EARTH-PIG BORN.
UMPH!--THIS IS RIDICULOUS! TIME FOR CEREBUS TO THROW SOME AUTHORITY IN THEIR WAY...

RETURN TO YOUR CAPTAIN--CEREBUS HAS NO NEED OF...
UNH?
...


The Kidnapping of an Aardvark
STAND WHERE YER AT, CRITTER!...
AHM DIRTY FLEAGLE McGREW...
THE DIRTIEST, ROTTENEST ONLIU FREEBOOTER WHO EVER DROPPED OUTA TH' THIRD GRADE!...
AN' AHM HIS BABY BROTHER, DIRTY DREW!
WE AIM TO KIDNAP YUH AND HOLD YER UPPER-CLASS CARCASS FER RANSOM!

CLOSE YER EYES, CRITTER! --THIS COULD GET A MITE MESSY!
HEH HEH
YAAAH!
CRAK
MUH LAIG! HE BROKE MUH LAIG!
OUCHIE! OUCHIE!
ARE YUH OKAY, DIRTY FLEAGLE?
OKAY?!?
OF COURSE AH AIN'T OKAY, IDJIT!
MUH LAIG'S BROKE!
JUST BRUISED ACTUALLY.
IF CEREBUS HAD MEANT TO BREAK IT, IT WOULD BE BROKEN ...
ANABODY HURTS DIRTY FLEAGLE McGREW
HASTA ANSWER TO 'IZ BLOOD KIN--MEANIN' ME! HIS BABY BROTHER DIRTY DREW!
SAY YER PRAYERS, VARMINT...
AHM FIXIN' TA BASH YER BRAINIES TA KINGDOM COME!
TARIM.

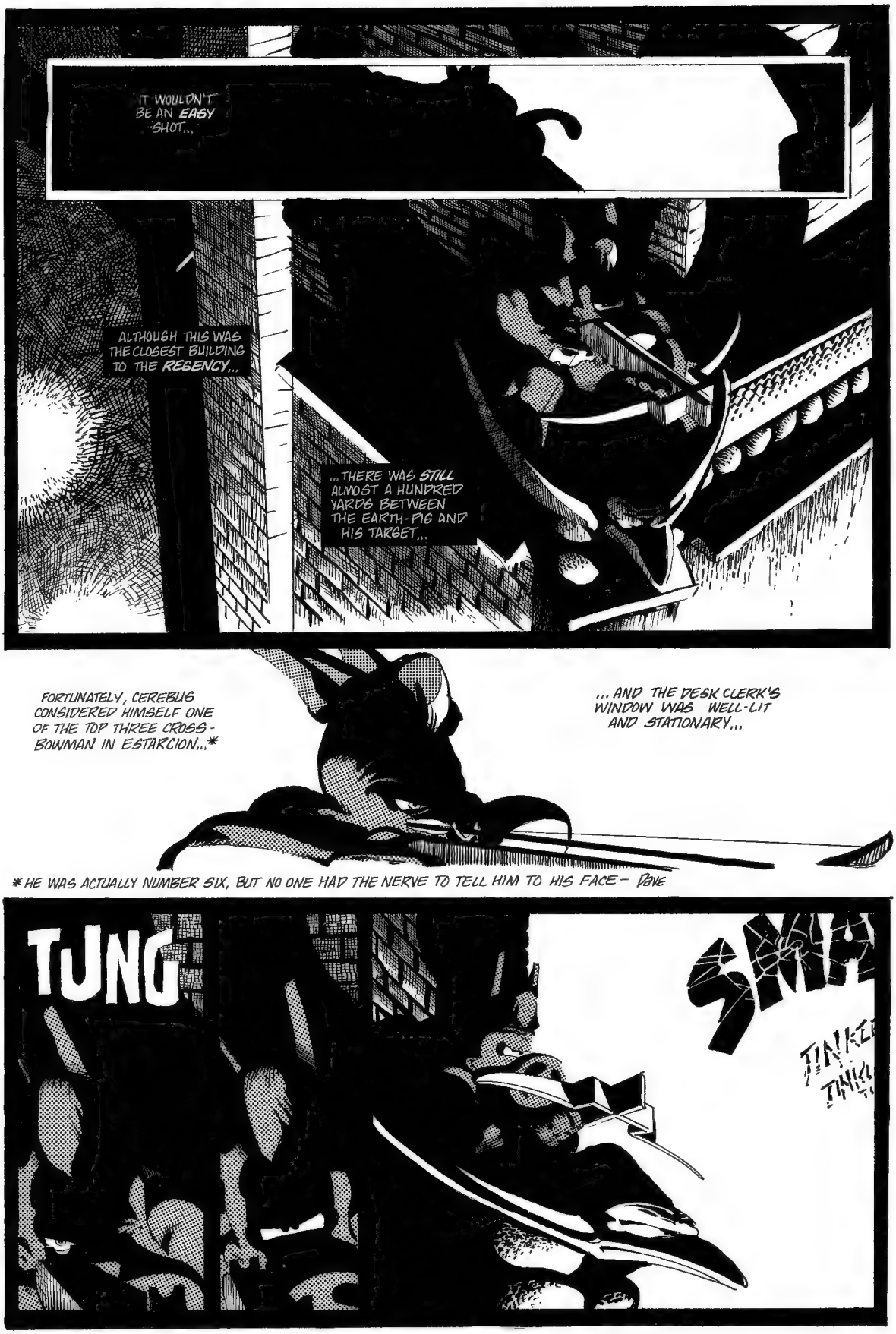
INEVITABLY...
MUH WRIST!...
MUH ...THUMB!...
MUH PINKIE!...
CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT YOU CHAPS TO START GETTING FRISKY AGAIN.
SO WE'LL JUST GET RID OF THESE...
SKULL PULPER!
GIZZARD STOMPER!
YUH GOT US DEAD TUH RIGHTS, VARMINT, SIR.
A ONLIU WITHOUT HIS HAMMER IS LAK A QUADRAPLEGIC GRIZZLY B'AR
WE'LL GO PEACEABLE-LIKE.
THIS WAY.
WOULD YUH MIND TURNIN' US INTUH THE GOVERNMENT PRISON, MR. UPPER CLASS GENNLEMAN VARMINT, SIR?
THEY SERVE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFUST...
HOW MUCH DID YOU TWO EXPECT TO GET AS A RANSOM?
AH'VE GOT THE RANSOMIN' NOTE HERE, IF'N YOU'D LAK T'READ IT...

"TRESHERER OF IEST: BRING A HUNNERT GOLD PEESES TO TH DOG N DUCK OR YULL FIND TH CRITTER IN LITTLE BITS, COME ALONE, DIRTY FLEAGLE McGREW AND HIS BABY BROTHER D..."
YOU SIGNED THE RANSOM NOTE...?
COURSE AH SIGNED IT....
HOW ELSE WOULD HE KNOW WHO TA GIVE THE MONEY TUH?
STOOPID CRITTER
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, IF'N YA DON'T MIND ME ASKIN', YER UPPER CLASSNESS?
WE'RE ALMOST THERE

CEREBUS!
CEREBUS THE AARDVARK
TARIM! IT HAS TO BE TEN YEARS SINCE THE LAST TIME I LAID EYES ON YOU!...
GET THREE SLEEPING MATS FROM THAT CLOSET ...
...AND TAKE THEM TO THE ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS...
CEREBUS NEEDS A CANDLE AND HOLDER, A SLATE, A BOX OF CHALK, A PEN, INK SOME NOTEPAPER
TWO FRESH DIAMONDBACK DECKS ...
A CROSSBOW
CEREBUS ALSO HAS A BANK DRAUGHT FOR EIGHT HUNDRED CROWNS THAT HE NEEDS FENCED ...
YOU SHOULD GET FOUR HUNDRED -- IT'S CURRENT AND CLEAN.
KEEP FIFTY FOR A WEEK'S RENT, FOOD AND ALE, GIVE ME THE REMAINDER IN SINGLE NOTES ...
POST A MAN ACROSS FROM THE REGENCY
CEREBUS IS TO BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS THEY FLY A RED FLAG OVER THE FRONT DOOR
ONE MORE THING ...
IF YOU TELL ANYONE CEREBUS IS HERE, HE WILL CUT YOUR HEART OUT
JUST FINE THANKS
HOW ABOUT YOURSELF?
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF FLEECING THOSE ONLIU CHAPS, ARE YOU?
THEY'RE NOT KNOWN FOR THEIR WEALTH...
THE IDEA ISN'T TO MAKE MONEY
CEREBUS JUST NEEDS SOMETHING TO DO ...
... WHILE HE WAITS FOR THAT RED FLAG.

to the attention of secretary of the treasury (city-state of IEST)~ Place twelve thousand crowns in negotiable draughts on the central bank of Smina in a small boat; cover it with a red blanket and float it west on the river. Do not attempt to follow the boat or Cerebus' head will be sent to Lord Julius by special courier ...
SKRATCHA SKRITCHIE SKRITCH SKRIK
WUDDA YUH FIGGER'S GOIN' ON, DIRTY FLEAGLE?
NEAR AS AH KIN FIGGER, IN IEST TH KIDNAP-EE GOES TUH JAIL WITH THE KIDNAP-ERS
Fly a red flag over the front door of the Regency when the boat is released. ...
the EYE in the PYRAMID
SKRITCH SKRITCH SKRITCH SKR
EITHER THAT OR HE'S A SPECIAL GUARD
OR THE WARDEN MEBBE ...
SHORE WISH HE'D TELL US IF'N IT'S OKAY FER US TA MOVE
AHM GITTIN' A CRICK IN M'BACK ...

DIRTY FLEAGLE! DID YUH SEE THET? THE VARMINT JEST ...
QUIET, IDJIT -- HE'S A-WAITIN' OUTSIDE THE WINDUH -- LISNIN' TO WHUT WE SAY ...
HE IS? WHAR?
THAR!
WHAR THAR?


IT WOULDN'T BE AN EASY SHOT...
ALTHOUGH THIS WAS THE CLOSEST BUILDING TO THE REGENCY...
...THERE WAS STILL ALMOST A HUNDRED YARDS BETWEEN THE EARTH-PIG AND HIS TARGET...
FORTUNATELY, CEREBUS CONSIDERED HIMSELF ONE OF THE TOP THREE CROSS-BOWMAN IN ESTARCION...*
...AND THE DESK CLERK'S WINDOW WAS WELL-LIT AND STATIONARY...
TUNG
SMA
TINK
TINK

*HE WAS ACTUALLY NUMBER SIX, BUT NO ONE HAD THE NERVE TO TELL HIM TO HIS FACE – Dave

THAR THAR?
NO NO-- OVER YONDER!
YONDER WHAR?
YONDER THAR!
CEREBUS DIDN'T TAKE YOU PRISONER
HE IS CUTTING HIMSELF IN FOR A SHARE OF YOUR LITTLE SCHEME...
CEREBUS JUST DELIVERED HIS OWN RANSOM NOTE, IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, THE RANSOM WILL BE FLOATING WEST ON THE RIVER IN A BOAT COVERED BY A RED BLANKET ...
OH YEAH?
HOW BIG A SLICE ARE YUH CUTTIN' YERSELF IN FER?
HUNH?
NOT TOO BIG
YOU'LL MAKE A HUNDRED CROWNS EACH DOING IT CEREBUS' WAY
A HUNNERT EACH, UNH? WHUDD'RE WE SPOSEDA DO IN TH' MEANYWAL...?
CEREBUS THOUGHT WE COULD PLAY SOME CARDS...
WE AIN'T GOT NO MONEY!
THAT'S OKAY. CEREBUS WILL KEEP TRACK OF YOUR BETS ON THIS SLATE...
WE'LL DEDUCT YOUR LOSSES FROM YOUR SHARE OF THE RANSOM
CEREBUS WILL USE CASH!
WHY THAT'S RAGHT DECENT UV YUH, CRITTER
HEH HEH SUM CRITTERS IS SOO STOOPID
WHUD'LL WE PLAY?
OH I DON'T KNOW ...
DIAMONDBACK?
DIAMONDBACK?!?
WAHOO!
AH LOOOVE DIAMONDBACK! DEAL THE CARDS!
YEAH!
DEAL THE CARDS
DEAL THE CARDS, VARMINT!

WHILE CEREBUS IS SHUFFLING At the time that I did the "Diamondback" story in ***Swords of Cerebus*** #1, it was my intention to provide only the barest details of the game as I imagined it; enough to keep the casual reader from feeling completely lost in the proceedings. There are a lot of you out there (judging by the mail) who are not satisfied with the barest details. Sometime in the future, we will be producing a diamondback deck that will contain rules for most of the major variations. For the moment, here is an outline of some of the more basic rules in the Onliu variation;

Match Diamondback

KARET, the variation described in Swords #1 was essentially a lower middle class variation popular in Lower Felda, Iest and other major population centres. The act of ***doubling*** the initial wager was, in fact, a peculiarity of the emerging urban centres, reflecting the concentration of currency in the densely-populated capitals of the southern city states. The more money available in a city, the more frenzied the betting in its lower and upper-middle class taverns.

MATCH DIAMONDBACK, on the other hand, was the game of preference among the stingy military personnel of Onliu, and was much tamer when compared with its metropolitan cousin. Onliu soldiers were paid by the government a wage of twenty copper bits a month, out of which they were required to "kick-back" a certain percentage for food, lodgings and other necessities. As a consequence, the Onliu soldier might have only three bits left for betting after his expenses were paid. Match diamondback was usually played with representative chips of varying denominations and it was not unusual for several hundred chips to be bet in a marathon game over several days for the sake of two or three copper bits that they represented.

THE DECK consists of 1 magician, 2 priestesses, 3 queens, 4 kings and 5 priests. For three players, the deck consists of 1 magician, 4 priestesses, 6 queens, 8 kings and 10 priests (two decks minus one magician). For four players, the deck consists of 1 magician, 6 priestesses, 9 queens, 12 kings and 15 priests (three decks minus two magicians).

THE HANDS magician-priestess 70 pts.; priestess-priestess 65 pts.; magician-queen 60 pts.; magician-king 55 pts.; priestess-king 50 pts.; priestess-queen 45 pts.; priestess-priest 40 pts.; queen-king 35 pts.; magician-priest 30 pts.; queen-queen 25 pts.; king-king 20 pts.; queen-priest 15 pts.; king-priest 10 pts.; priest-priest 5 pts.

THE GAME begins with a draw for high card. Winner deals the first hand, two cards face down to each player. Each placer examines his cards and the dealer makes a wager which must be matched by each of the other players (there is traditionally no ante in Match Diamondback. A player who folds on each hand can play all night and not lose a single coin). Each player then exposes one of his cards and the dealer initiates a new round of betting, each player choosing whether to match the dealer's wager or fold. Winning hand takes the pot. In the case of a tie between two players' hands, the pot is carried over into the next hand. If there are three players in the game and two are tied on a hand, the pot is split between the two players. If all three are tied, the pot is carried over into the next hand. If there are four players in a game and two players' hands are tied in points, the pot is split between the two tied players. If three or four players are tied in points, the pot is carried over into the next hand.

THE MOST UNIQUE FEATURE of Match Diamondback is the rule that the game must continue until a majority of the players involved agree to end it. (In a two-man game, both would have to agree, in a three-man game two would have to agree and in a four-man game, three would have to agree.) Very often another soldier would be asked to hold the contested coins in trust until a game was decided. "Coin-men" were responsible for organizing the closest approximation of a banking system ever to evolve in Onliu's loosely-knit military society, lending coins held in trust, fencing loot from military raids into neighboring countries, etc. It was not unusual for a game to drag on over several months, since a player leaving the game before a consensus was reached forfeited his winnings.

DAY ONE

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE

AH FOLD ...
BUNCHADAM CHEATERS RAZZA FRAZZIN
LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, DIRTY FLEAGLE ...
THE BET'S A CROWN, MATCH OR FOLD!
DIRTY FLEAGLE?
AH CAIN'T THINK THAT FAST!
IT MAKES MUH HAID HURT!
LOOK; CEREBUS HAS A KING EXPOSED. THE BEST HE COULD HAVE IS FIFTY-FIVE POINTS
YOUR PRIESTESS MEANS YOU HAVE AT LEAST FORTY POINTS
ALL RIGHT! AH MATCH YER BET!
AN' YUH BETTER NOT O' BIN SWEET TALKIN' ME!
NERVES OF STEEL, THESE ONLIU.
QUEEN.
HAH!
THAT MEANS YOU GET A SHARE FROM DIRTY DREW
NO GOOD LOWDOWN RAZNAN
AND TWO CROWN NOTES FROM CEREBUS ...
GIMME THOSE!
SNATCH
AH WON! YAHOO! --A WHOLE TWO CROWNIES!
AH'M RICH! RICH! RICH!!!

DAY TWO

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE

DAY TWO-- BY NOW ALL OF THE IESTAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF CEREBUS' ABDUCTION. UNLESS CEREBUS WAS MISTAKEN, THE BUSINESSMEN WERE INSISTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT PAY THE FULL RANSOM SINCE IT WAS GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES THAT HAD LOST TRACK OF THE EARTH-PIG. IF THE PRIME MINISTER DIDN'T HAVE THE BUSINESSMEN EXECUTED FOR TREASON, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROBABLY GO ON FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

HEY, DIRTY FLEAGLE?
I THINK I HEAR NATURE CALLIN'
IF'N TH' KING O' MEALC COMES BY, AH'LL TELL HIM WHERE YER AT...
OKAY!?
WAL, PARDON ME FER BREATHIN', YER SORE-LOSER-NESS!
JEST FER THET, AH'LL LET CEREBUS DEAL FER ME
HOW LONG HAS YOUR BROTHER HAD THAT NERVOUS TICK?
WHUT TICK?!
THE ONE HE GETS IN HIS LEFT EYE WHEN HE'S HOLDING A BUM HAND
HEH HEH! I SUPPOSE YOU AMATEURS MUSTA MISSED ME, HUNH? DIDN'T KNOW WHO TUH GIVE YER MONEY TUH?
IF'N YUH WANT ME TUH LOSE A HAND'RE TWO, TO MAKE YUH FEEL BETTER, WELL Y'ALL JUST
SAY...
THE...
WHUT'RE YOU GRINNIN' ABOUT IDJIT?
NUTHIN'

DAY THREE

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE

BY NOW, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE GOING THROUGH THE CHARADE OF CONVENING A MEETING WITH HIS CABINET, OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS WHETHER OR NOT TO PAY THE RANSOM. IN ACTUALITY, HE WOULD BE SIZING UP HIS MINISTERS... TRYING TO FIND ONE WHO OWED HIM ENOUGH FAVOURS TO HIDE A TWELVE THOUSAND CROWN RANSOM IN HIS MINISTRY'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF EXPENSES TO THE SACRED CHURCH'S GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE. ONCE THE UNFORTUNATE LACKEY HAD BEEN SELECTED THE RANSOM WOULD BE PAID QUICKLY--NO ONE IN THE IESTAN GOVERNMENT RELISHED THE IDEA OF CEREBUS' HEAD BEING SENT TO LORD JULIUS (AT LEAST UNTIL CERTAIN TRADE AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED).

AH BET TWO CROWNIES!
WHUT ABOUT IT, BABY BROTHER?
HUNH?
AWW, C'MON!
SO AH WUN FORTY HANDS IN A ROW...
YUH CAIN'T QUIT NOW!
I AIN'T GOT ALL YER SHARES YET!
HAW! HAW! HAW!
"AH AIN'T GOT ALL YER SHARES YET."
THAT'S A GOOD ONE, HUNH?
HAW! HAW!
HAW! HAW! HAW!
HOW CUM Y'AIN'T LAFFIN' DIRTY DREW?
HUNH? HOW CUM?
BAMF
BANDAGES, LINIMENT, SPLINTS... ALSO--CEILING REPAIRS, PLASTER, FLOORBOARDS, NEW DESK ..... ummm...
HOW ABOUT FIFTY CROWNS?...
FAIR ENOUGH.

DAY FOUR

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE

RIGHT HON. THE MINISTER OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT: IF IT PLEASE YOUR REVERENCE, THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON LONG-TERM GROWTH IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS DELIVERED ITS QUARTERLY BUDGET YESTERDAY AND WE HAVE DETERMINED, THROUGH A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THEIR EXPENSES INCURRED, THAT THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE ERROR IN THEIR CALCULATIONS OF INCOME VERSUS EXPENDITURES. WE REGRET TO INFORM THE HOUSE THAT THIS AMOUNT IS IN EXCESS OF TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: OH! OH!

HIS REVERENCE: ORDER, PLEASE.

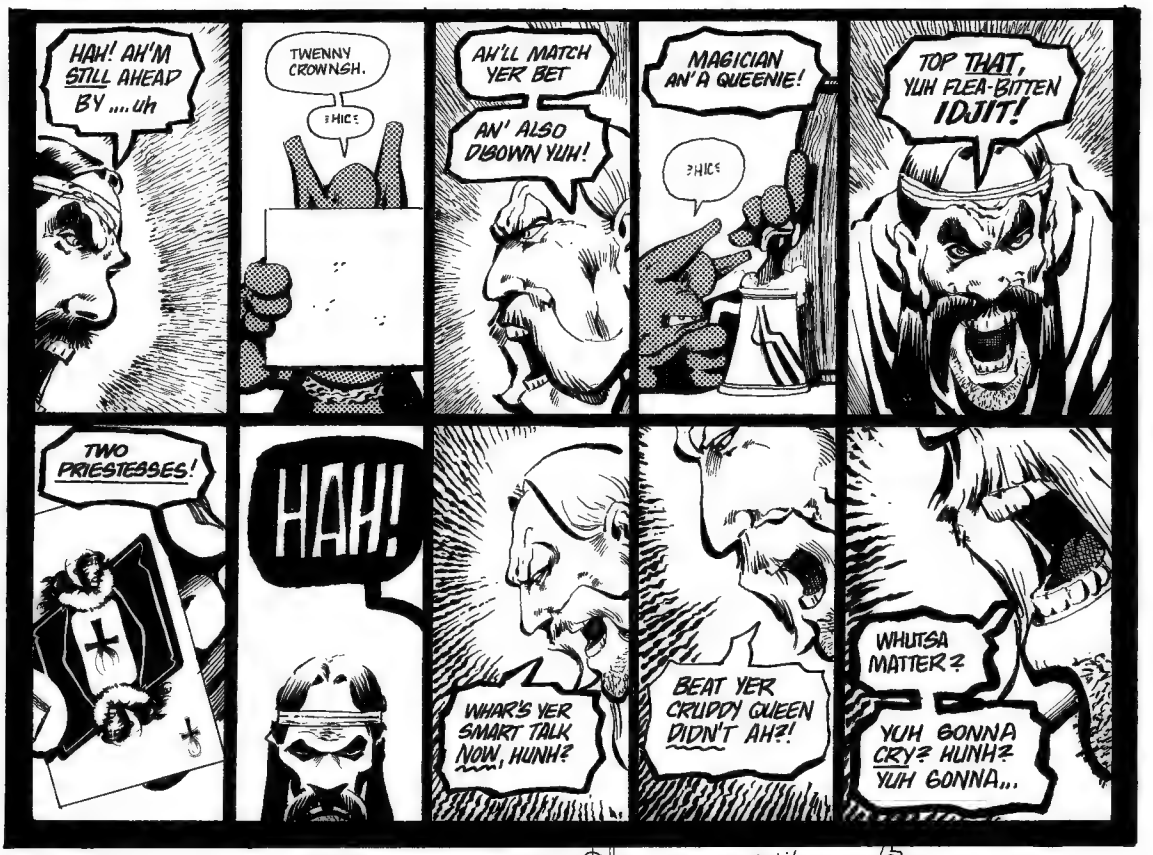
RIGHT HON. THE MINISTER OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT: AN ORDER IN COUNCIL SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND ALL CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP, EXCEPTING, OF COURSE, THOSE MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP UNDER THE PERSONAL PROTECTION OF HIS HOLINESS.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: HEAR! HEAR!

HIS HOLINESS' PARLIAMENT OF IEST (excerpt of transcripts)

DAY FIVE

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE



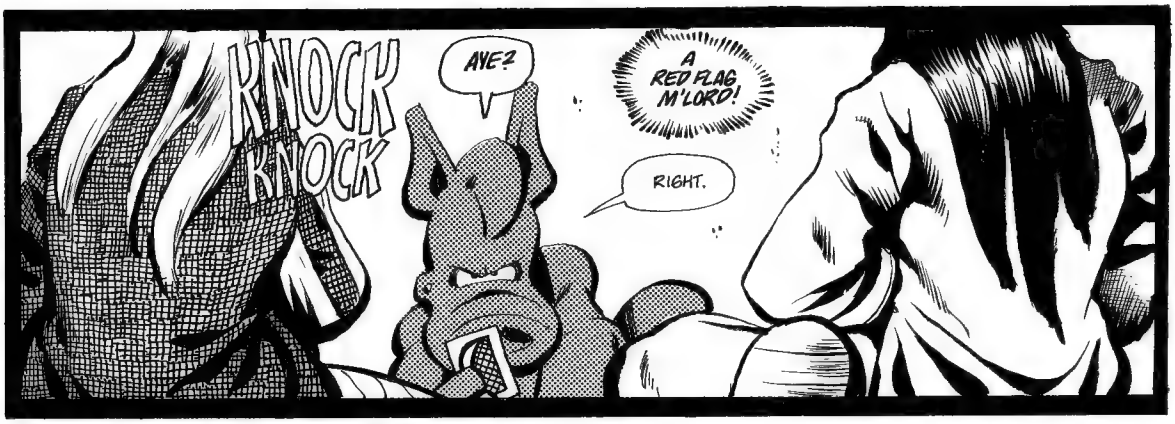
DAY SIX

CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE

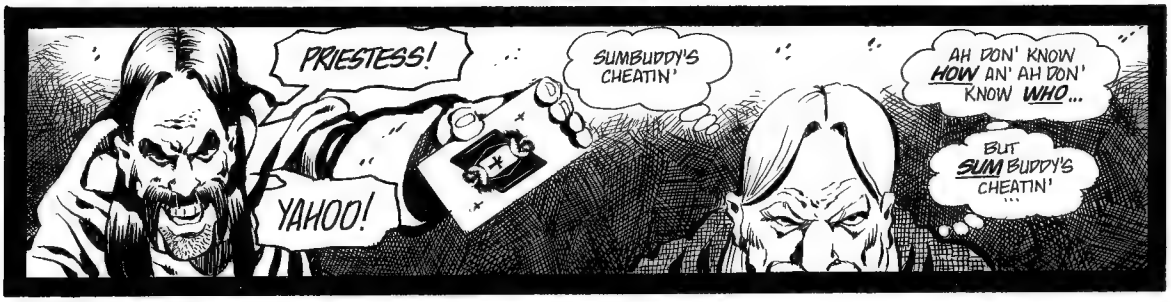
BY NOW, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIGNING THE PROPER FORMS TRANSFERRING TWELVE THOUSAND CROWNS FROM THE VAULTS BENEATH THE IEST TREASURY BUILDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRET ACCOUNT IN THE IEST OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF SMINA, BURNING THE BUILDING HOUSING THOSE FORMS TO THE GROUND, AND HAVING THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION ARRESTED FOR ARSON AND EXECUTED FOR TREASON, ALL WAS IN READINESS...

DAY SEVEN

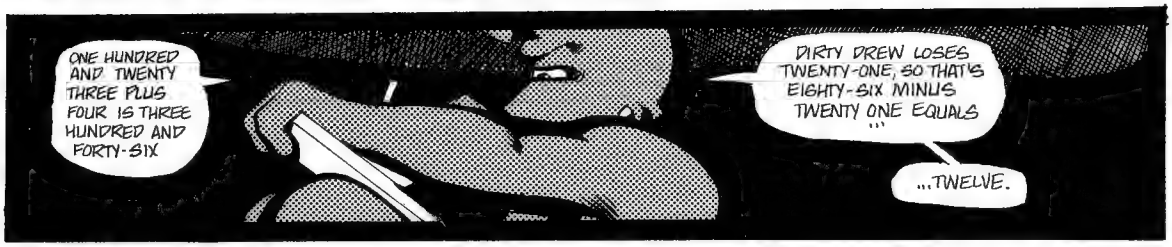
CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE



SHORTLY BEFORE NOON



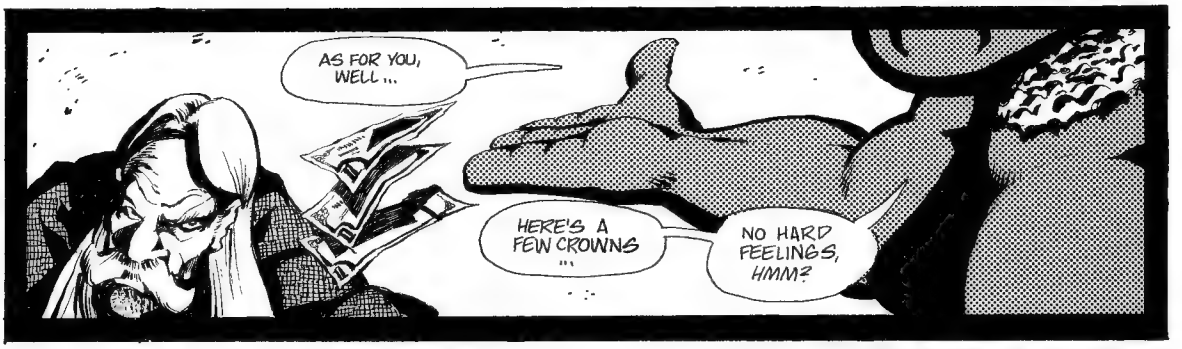
SOMETIME AFTER DUSK


ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE PLUS FOUR IS THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX
DIRTY DREW LOSES TWENTY-ONE, SO THAT'S EIGHTY-SIX MINUS TWENTY ONE EQUALS
...TWELVE.

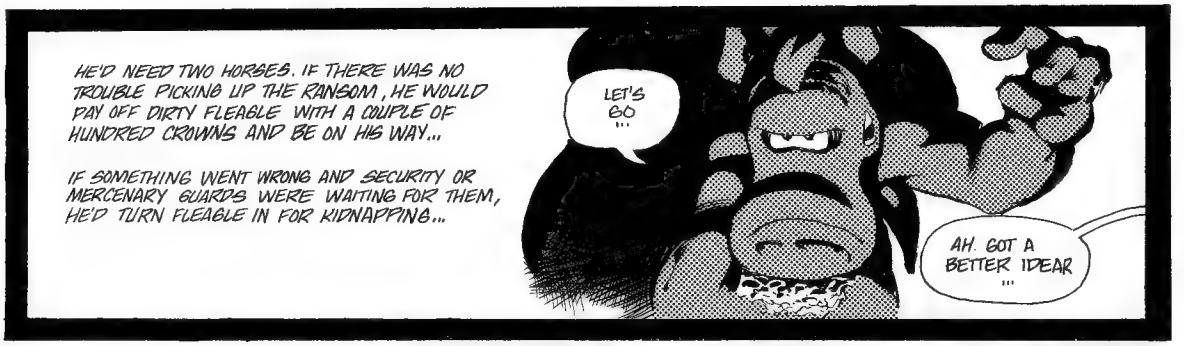
SUDDENLY, THAT EVENING

MOMENTS LATER

IN THE NEXT INSTANT



JUST THEN


HE'D NEED TWO HORSES. IF THERE WAS NO TROUBLE PICKING UP THE RANSOM, HE WOULD PAY OFF DIRTY FLEAGLE WITH A COUPLE OF HUNDRED CROWNS AND BE ON HIS WAY...
IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND SECURITY OR MERCENARY GUARDS WERE WAITING FOR THEM, HE'D TURN FLEAGLE IN FOR KIDNAPPING...
LET'S GO ...
AH. GOT A BETTER IDEAR ...

BEFORE CEREBUS CAN TURN

DIRTY DREW AN' AH WILL TELL 'EM WHAR TUH FIND YUH...
AN' PICK UP OUR RANSOM OURSELFS ...
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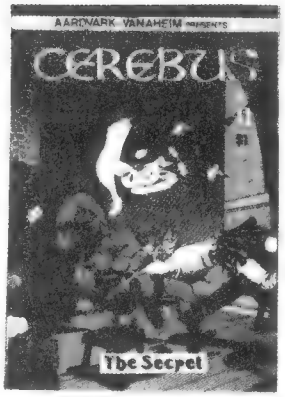

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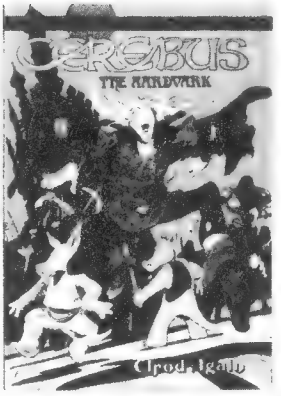

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AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

To Dave Sim:

Aha! I see your plan! In Cerebus #19, shown in only three panels was the true founder of the Cirinists -- the black cat! This fact is especially pleasing to me, for I am ardently devoted to cats. In fact, for five years now I have been seeking innovative and sadistic ways to neuter cats. (I have found 236). Now I'll bet that in a future issue you'll show a flashback scene where a great ancestor of mine -- born in Cerebus' time -- gives a certain black cat quite a traumatic experience. This induces the cat (whose name, of course, is Cirin) to form a fun-hating sorority (the Cirinists), with the character Wenda being VICE-President. Am I glad that I took those logic classes in school!

Sincerely,

Joseph Szabo,
56 Dorset Dr.
Clark, NJ 07066

Go to your room.

Dear Dave:

You printed a letter and picture of mine in Cerebus #24. The photo was of my "nameless younger brother" in a Cerebus costume, remember? Since the publishing of that picture, two things have happened: First, I have been riding the high of having a letter pubbed in my favorite mag (Thank you) and, second, my brother is no longer speaking to me. At first, I was enjoying the latter development, but now it has become downright annoying. He is an iron-willed nine year old, so this could go on for months -- even decades!!! Therefore ... I beg you ... I beseach you ... Please print his name! Just write Ted Christian. You don't even have to write anything else! Thank you!

Incidentally, I loved #s 23 and 24. "Prof. Charles X. Charemont" is brilliant as is "Woman-Thing". In my last letter I asked for more parody and you're sure giving it to me! I especially enjoyed the girls' tales of heroism. By now, I'm sure many loyal Cerebus readers have surmised that Katrina is Jaka's sister. The inevitable second meeting seems to be drawing closer, and I, for one, can't wait! Fight! Fight! Fight!

Jeff Christian
13 Peppermill Rd.
Chatham Twp, NJ 07928

Ted Christian

Dear Fellow Aardvarks,

I am a new Cerebus fan. (Starting with issue #21) I would like to congratulate you on making such an excellent comic. Just a few questions: 1) What's wrong with the president's ankles? (Not Reagan). 2) What's the CHEAPEST price for Cerebus #1? 3) How about a satire on Iron Man? 4) Is there going to be a Swords of Cerebus #2? 5) What ever happened to Elrod and Captain Cockroach? (Or is he still making sure that the drapes don't eat the house-plants?)

Enclosed is a picture of the many faces of Cerebus and I'm working on some more paraphenalia. I hope you keep on making Cerebus until #5000.

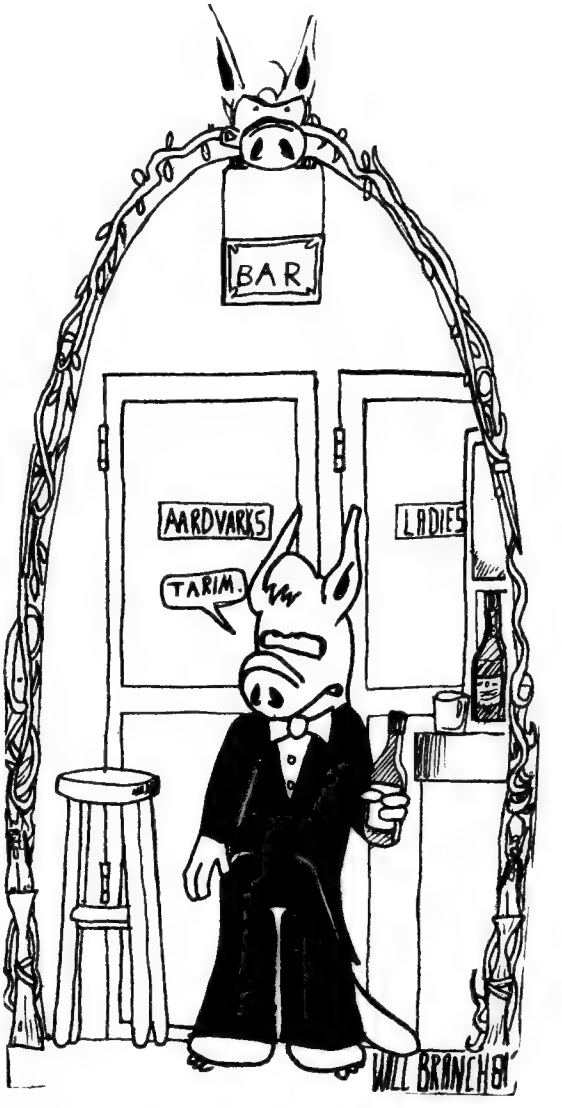
Sincerely,

Will Branch, Age 10
2101 E. Kensington Blvd.
Shorewood, WI 53211

1. We haven't gotten to that part yet. 2) $50 the last I heard of Two sold for that amount at Now & Then (Hi, Harry). 3. No 4. Yes This month. 5a. Not too much actually. b) Yes. I hope you keep on reading until #300. (Will's impression of Cerebus appears on this page).

Dave:

I recently began reading Cerebus and a few things pop into mind. Especially after the most recent issue, number 23. (Down here in Georgia, that IS the most recent issue. We get things slow.) For one thing, what is the aardvark culture like? After all, there must be other aardvarks around. Do they have a civilization? Are they barbarians? Nomads? Pirates? Itenerant street cleaners? Or just wandering aardvarks with nothing to do? Did Cerebus ever have a girlfriend (of the earth-pig persuasion)? It seems to me that he must have been attracted at one time to a lady aardvark (if there are lady aardvarks -- we don't know that till you tell us about the culture) -- perhaps he began his wanderings because of a broken heart? (The earth-pig is a lot more sentimental than he lets on. He is the least cynical cynic I have seen in a



"Will Branch's drawing of an Estarcion bar where aardvarks are aardvarks, ladies are ladies and men just have to hold it in."

AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

long time.) Are there other non-human sapients around? Wombats I suspect, due to a recent letter column, but what else? (I'll accept anything but ducks. I am tired to death of ducks.) Foxes, bears, platypuses, diplodoci? Huh?

Also, I understood that there was supposed to be an anthology and a magazine called "Swords of Cerebus" out. Well, I can't get them. Most annoying.

Oh, by the way - I also include an advanced Dungeons and Dragons outline for Cerebus. The one mentioned in 23 was inadequate for my campaign. Also, I see him as such:
Dungeons and Dragons Specs for Cerebus the Aardvark:
Strength: 13 Class: fighter/thief Level: 11/10
Race: Aardvark (High) Intelligence: 13
Alignment: Neutral (tending to good) Wisdom: 12
Dexterity: 17 Constitution: 18
Charisma: 17/14 (depends. He's an odd one.)
Hit dice: 11 Hit points: 71 +2 attacking creatures man sized or larger, as they tend to underestimate him.
Weapons: short sword, buckler, dagger
Movement: 10" Armor: class 5 Price: $1.50

Darn. You had to raise it, I suppose, but still...

Hope this version of the Cerebus D & D character pleases you, as well as Mr. Iverson. I put Cerebus' constitution so high because he has survived a hell of a lot of titanically torturing punishment on various occasions, and his wisdom as low as I did in view of the many impulsive acts he has performed (for example, the "Kick the Driver" incident mentioned in 23). Also, I added dagger as it seems to me that I remember him using one once. Ah, well, I have to go finish studies for a final and write the next almost - deathless chapter in the adventures of my sf hero that I spend all my time writing about knowing it will never be read (it isn't my serious stuff) and wish I had an illustrator -- Hey, Dave -- you want the opportunity of a lifetime?

Sincerely,

Robert S. Haynie Jr.
Lunatic at Large (or medium)
Box 31304 Tyus Hall
West Georgia College
Carrollton, Georgia 30118

No. (Note from Deni: I think Dave's "no" is an answer to all of the questions.)

Ahem:

Okay. So you printed my stupid little comment in your latest (#23) issue. Fine. I've had stupid little comments of mine printed before. I don't mind. What I DO mind is the comma you placed after my name. Why on earth did you do that? (And don't be sly and try to weasle your way out of this sticky situation by filing it under "Human-Fucking-Error".) Do you realize the amount of anxiety you've caused me? I've been getting strange phone calls in the middle of the night from equally strange people who insist on telling me "comma jokes" and laughing at me. While people have always laughed at me, I find comma humor particularly annoying.

And while I'm picking your nits, I have one more complaint: your dialogue. It's totally nonsensical. As I've just finished reading a Superman reprint digest, my mind is oodled with examples of really wonderful Comic Book Talk:

"It was good helping out my alien friends in this star system."
"Obviously ANOTHER faker."
Great Galloping Galaxies."
"I'm blacking out..."
"Earth can't get along without Superman."

If you could fit these into your next issue, then I'm sure it would be quite swell.

Mike (No Commas!) Bannon
(And I'm Not Signing My Address)
P.S. Could you give me the phone number of Michael Fleisher's lawyer? I'm thinking of suing you.
P.P.S. Am I kidding, or what?
P.P.P.S. Wouldn't you rather get no fan mail at all than letters like these?

Suing me? Great Galloping Galaxies -- Earth can't get along without Superman. Letters like these? Obviously ANOTHER faker. I'm blacking out...I find Superman dialogue is just perfect for answering crank letters. Krypto! What is it, boy?

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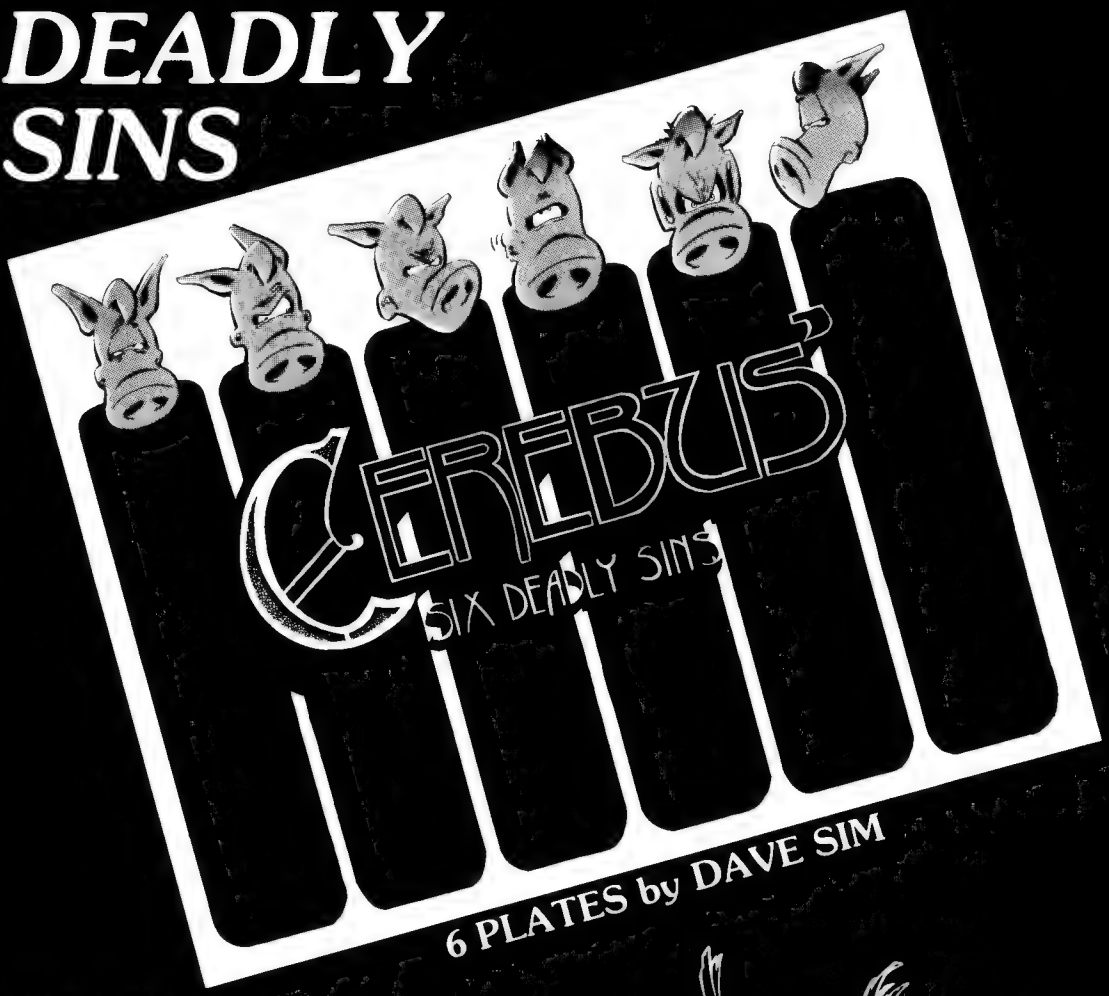

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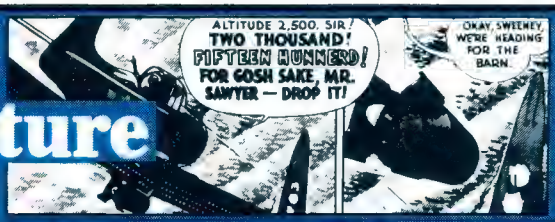

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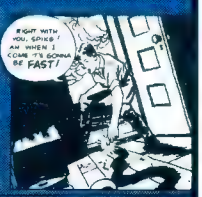

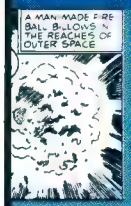

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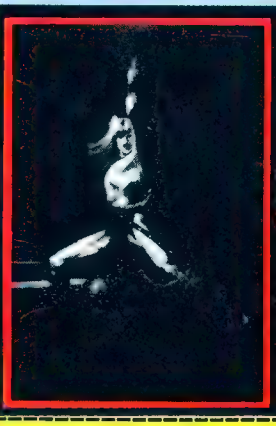

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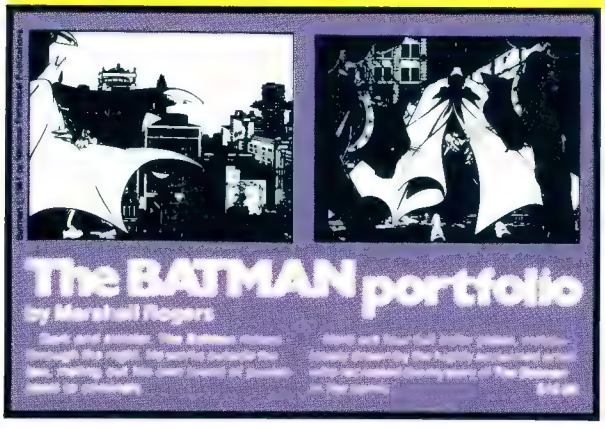

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CEREBUS
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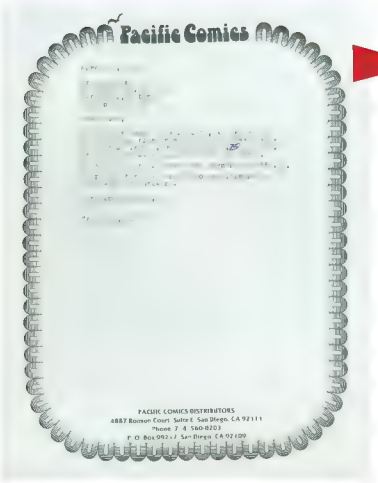
"Letter from Bill Schanes, today the VP of Purchasing for Diamond Comic Distributors, at that time one of the partners in the family-owned Pacific Comics, the distributor AND the publishing company. This is referring to the CEREBUS: SIX DEADLY SINS portfolio they were doing through their Schanes & Schanes imprint."

- Dave Sim



March 10, 1981

Mr Dave Sims
221 Queen St. S 1401
Kitchener, Ontario
Canada N26 1W5

Dear Dave,

As Per our phone conversation, we are going to raise the print run on The Six Deadly sins of Cerebus from 1,200 copies to 1,350 copies. This is a mutually aggreed upon the phone.

We will also raise your last payment by $550.00.

Every one here is really looking forward to recieving the artwork.

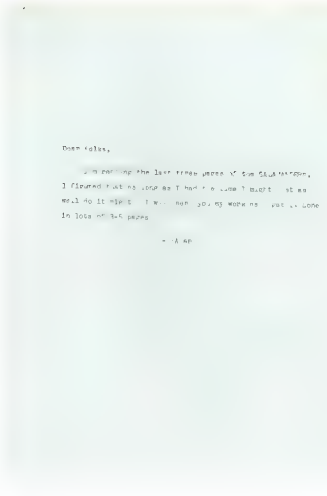
Very truly yours,

Bill Schanes

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

"DF Brent Alan Richardson was the cartoonist we had chosen to launch our showcase title UNIQUE STORIES with. Although the documents have been scanned in reverse order (in order to get that pesky inter-dimensional imp to say his name backwards) I think you'll get the idea of how these things tended to play out over the course of a year or so. You'll get to see his work when we reprint the back-up stories from CEREBUS No.32 and 33."

- Dave Sim



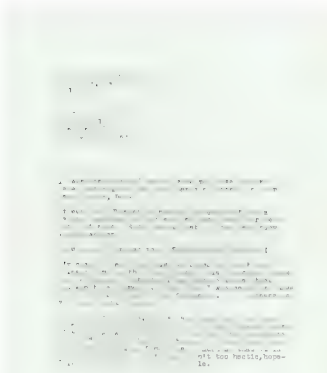
Dear Folks,

I'm redoing the last three pages of the SALAMANDERS. I figured that as long as I had the time I might just as well do it right. I will send you my work as I get it done in lots of 3-5 pages.

---Alan

480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
5/17/82

Dave & Deni Sim
P.O. Box 1674
Station "C"
Kitchener, Ontario



Dear D & D,

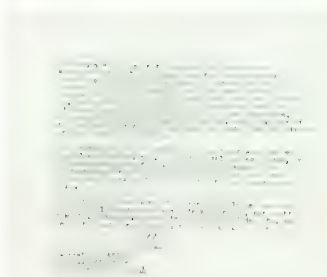
It was very nice of you to send me those letters (even underlining the good parts no less!) in your last letter, Deni.

It was very UN-nice of me not to have sent you a letter thanking you for sending back that four page strip of mine. Sorry about that. I can be a slow letter writer.

So without further ado: THHHHHANNNNK YOUUUUUU!

I'm glad to hear that Dave is going to be at the Chicago Comicon this year since I plan on going there to. Although I gathered from your editorial that you won't be there. A pity. But I was hoping to make it up to Albany again this September. Perhaps we will meet again there.

Through our letters, calls, and talks over the past year I've gotton to know you a tiny bit Deni, but most of what I know about Dave I've sifted from prologues in the "Swords of Cerebus" books. In many ways Dave and I think alike. Sometimes so much so that it is just plain weird. If things aren't too hectic, hopefully Dave and I can chat a little.



Unfortunately I haven't been able to do too much work for the past few months due to a couple minor (but incapacitating) aflictions. I broke my foot on some ice in late January and I've been having trouble with my eyes. Both conditions have been cleared up, but my work for the past few months has been small. I've had some cartoons published in a local magazine, a couple of T-shirt designs printed up, and I had six of my fashion illustrations exhibated a show. The illustration on the flier is also mine.

I'm bringing a large portfolio of my comic work and my retail work to Chicago. I hope to sell a few things, or at least make myself known to some publishers. I'm also setting up an apointment with someone at a large department store in Chicago to try and sell some retail work.

I'll send you some more of my work next letter and tell you a little more about what I'm working on, but right now it is three a.m. and I'm statring to fade. So, say hello to Dave for my and have a nice month. 'Bye.

B. Alan Richardson
480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214

480 VILLAGE DR.
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

23/2/82

Dave & Deni Sim
Box 1674 Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario

Dear D & D,

A couple of weeks ago I recieved a very pleasent surprise.

In the morning I recieved your package with my check, my art, AND EIGHT COPIES OF CEREBUS #32 & #33! Then that afternoon, I got a copy of Cerebus #34!!! What can I say? Thank you, you've been more than generous.

I've spent the last month doing single panel cartoons. Fortunately I enjoy doing them. Also I can get $20-$75 or more for what amounts to two hours of work. What it comes down to is that I can make more money faster with panel cartoons than with strips.

But I'm starting to get the urge to do some more strip work...So I'm starting to build a strip portfolio now that I've got a little money in the bank again. After it's completed I'm going to photograph them and have them put on slides. which I'll send around. I'll send you a copy of course.

Admittidly I was disapointed that my strip "Heaven's Gated". But I am also the first to admit that the strip has many weaknesses, both technical and conceptual. But I've learned from them. The last thing you have to worry about is my being put off by this. One failure in nothing. Just getting into print was a success. Ray Bradbury submitted dozens of stories before even one was printed. And B. Kliban had a period of about three years when he couldn't sell anything! So I have little to worry about. The only thing though is that you guys have been very nice to me and I only wish that I could've done better. That, and I miss the chance to do a sixty page book. As I said in my last letter, "there's always next season."

This Summer I was thinking of publishing a small (read: cheap) comic on my own. I haven't figured out anything concrete yet, but I'll keep you posted.

So, 'till next time.

B. Alan Richardson

480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
11/18/81

Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St. South
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario n2g 1w5

Dear D. & D.

I didn't know when you needed the next Glenwood ad so I thought I'd better just send it now.

About the script...

It is coming along. Slower than I had hoped, but coming never the less. More then half of it is done.

The snag has been the "Salamanders" strip. I'm revamping the entire thing, and I'll be junking the ten page version that I sent you.

The twenties-thirties period stuff was nice, but the research took too much time. So I'm going to update the characters and use the same plot for a thirty pager.

Don't send back the 10 pager though. We my find a use for it yet.

The seceond half of the book features a strip called "The Cuckoo". The script for that is finnished.

Now one advantage is that the script I'm sending you has everything. Mock-ups, logo and cover roughs, etc. The works. You can look through it and pick and choose what you want. It also contains a script for the four page "introduction" strip you wanted me to do.

So anyhow, this is the mailing schedule for my stuff:

1. My manuscript (I don't know when this will get to you, I'm sending it by a special "manuscript" rate.
2. My 8-Ball story. (One of these days).
3. My Elu story.
4. By this time the manuscript should have reached you. Once you give me the go-ahead I'll do the introduction strip and send it to you.

After that I'll begin work on the big project. I won't send you any of that 'till after the Christmas mail rush is over. But to keep you posted, I'll send you photo copies every week.

So anyway, take it easy (if you can), and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, ALAN

Brent Alan Richardson

1/26/82

480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614-263-1174

Dave & Deni Sim
Box 1674 Station 'C'
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4R2

Dear D. & D.

Hi folks, just thought I'd drop you a quick line or three.

In the holiday rush I'm afraid you guys forgot to send me my check for the second half of my Salamanders story. Either that or it got lost in the mail. Please drop me a letter or phone me as soon as possible so I can get in touch with the Post Office in case you sent it and they lost it.

I'm sorry the reaction to my story wasn't better. I'd been looking forward to doing a sixty page book. But I've several other projects in the wings. And I'll submit some stuff to you in the fall. Like they say in baseball, "There's always next season."

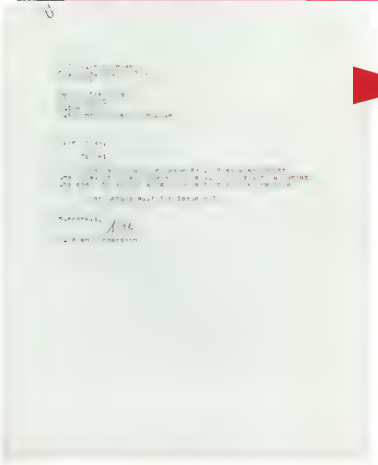
Take it easy guys (if you can). I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, ALAN

B. Alan Richardson.

P.S.--Thanks for the copy of Cerebus #33!

got it!!
send it back.



480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
10/23/81

Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario n2g 1w5

Dear Folks,

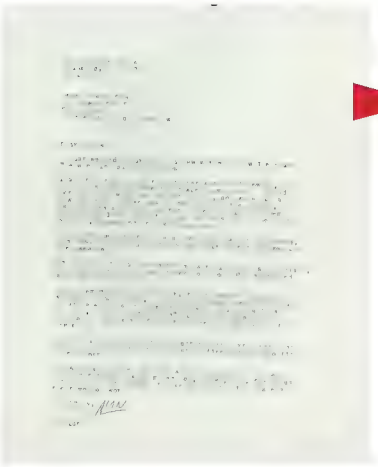
Ta-da!

This is the ad for issue #31. Russ also bought one of my other ad roughs. He would like you to alternate the ads. My second ad will be with you in a few days.

I can hardly wait for issue #31.

Sincerely,

B. Alan Richardson



480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
10/16/81

Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario n2g 1w5

Dear Folks,

I just wanted to drop you a few words on how I'm doing. The word is: slooooooooooow.

I did not send those roughs last week to Glenwood, I decided to sit on them and rework some stuff. I did get in touch with the people though, and work out a few things. I have now (finally) sent the roughs, I mailed them with this letter. They should get them Monday the 19th, and I'll send out his ad on the 20th or 21st, depending on how things go.

The Eight-Ball story is also being mailed to you today, and should get to you soon after this letter or even on the same day.

As for the rest of the month my work load is fairly small, so I shall be doing that other four page Elu story and sending that to you.

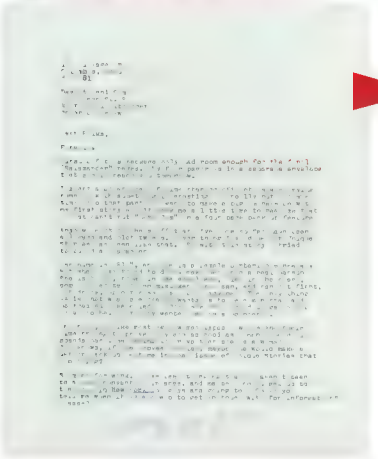
Also I am working on the script for that 60 page book whenever I have time. Once I have that done I'm going to write and draw a four pager using the characters for you. The "introduction" strip you suggested. I hope to have most of all this done by the first of November.

I would like to be able to start on the sixty pager the first week of November and have it finnished by the first of the year.

I really am excited by this whole project. I've been looking through design magazines, books, etc. for ideas ever since I got back. I plan on givings the readers their monies worth.

Sincerely,

B. Alan



480 Village Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43214
8-18-81

Dave & Deni Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401 Kitchener
Ontario n2g 1w5

Dear Folks,

Finally!

First off this package only had room enough for the final "Salamander" pages. My four pager is in a separate envelope that should reach you tomorrow.

I spent a great deal of time staring off into space trying come up with something interesting. I really put too much time into that part. I want to make a big impression with my first story and it took me a little time to realize that I just can't put "Lord Jim" in a four page back-up feature.

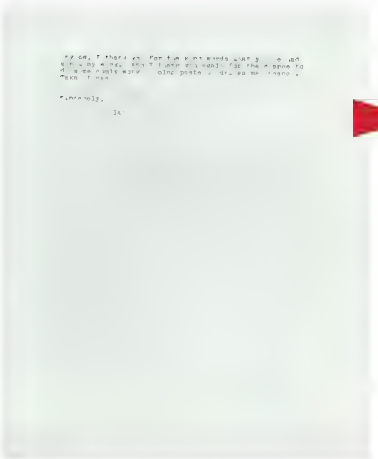
Anyhow, most of the stuff that I've done so far have been all gags and plot twists. Everything I've done for Unique Stories has been like that. So with this story I tried to build a character.

Her name is "Elu", and she is a female barbarion-mercenary. But what I've tried to do is make her into a real person. She is 6' 2", broad in the shoulders, flat in the chest, semi-litterate, often mistaken for a man, and can out fight, out drink, or out cuss just about anyone. The only thing is is that what she really wants is to be a minstral and be treated like a lady. Once she even tried to get a job in a brothel, but they wanted her as a bouncer...

In brief, unlike most swordwomen types (who spend their time trying to prove they are as good as a man), poor Elu spends her time trying to prove that she is a woman. Who knows, if she proves popular, maybe she would make a better back-up feature in that issue of Unique Stories that I'm doing?

So much for work. I've been thinking that I haven't been to a good convention in ages, and maybe I could get up to that con in New York you guys are going to. Could you tell me when it is and who to get in touch with for information? Please?

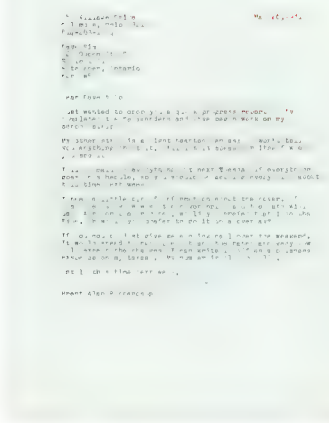
albany - Sept 19-20



Anyhow, I thank you for the kind words that you've had about my work. And I thank you again for the chance to do some comix work (doing paste-up drives me insane). Take it easy.

Sincerely, Alan

Alan



480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614-263-1174

May 26,1981

Dave Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario
n2g 1w5

Dear Dave & Co.

Just wanted to drop you a quick progress report. I've completed the Salamanders and I've begun work on my second strip.

My other strip is a light hearted fantasy, I won't tell you anything about it, I'll let it speak for itself when you see it.

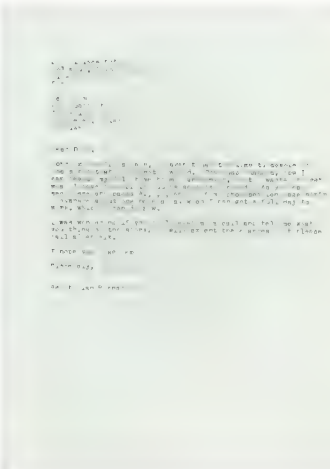
I'll be mailing everything out next Tuesday if everything goes on schedule, so you should be getting everything about this time next week.

I need a little bit of information about the cover. I just need to know what the cover price and the date will be. Also on the original, would you prefer that I do the type, or would you prefer to do it on a overlay?

If you could, just give me a quick call over the weekend. It would speed things up a bit and the rates are very low. I'll except the charges (I can write it off as a buisness exspense on my taxes). My number is 614-263-1174.

Untill this time next week, ALAN

Brent Alan Richardson



480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
614-263-1174
5-6-81

Dave Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario
n2g 1w5

Dear Dave,

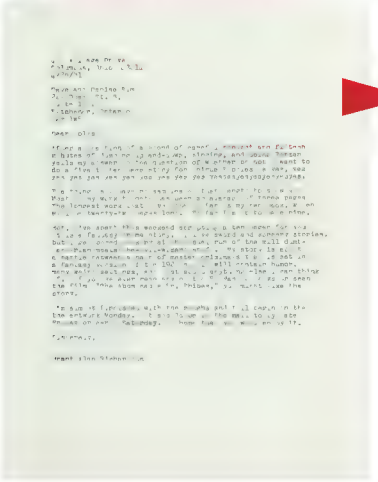
Sorry my stuff is late, I haven't had the time to devote to the strip that I thought I would. That has changed, now I can devote my full time to my cartooning. But I wanted to get what I have done of to you as soon as I could. As you can see these are pages #1,2,4, and 5 of my proposed ten page strip. I avarage about one page a day when I can get a full day to work, which I can do now.

I was wondering if you could give me a call and tell me what you think of the story. I will except the charges, but please call after six.

I hope you like 'em.

Sincerely, ALAN

Brent Alan Richardson



480 Village Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43214
4/26/81

Dave and Denise Sim
221 Queen St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario
n2g 1w5

Dear Folks:

After a fraction of a scond of careful thought and fifteen mihutes of jumping up-and-down, singing, and doing Tarzan yells my answer to the question of whether or not I want to do a five to ten page story for Unigue Stories is yes, yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yesyesyesyesyesyesyes!

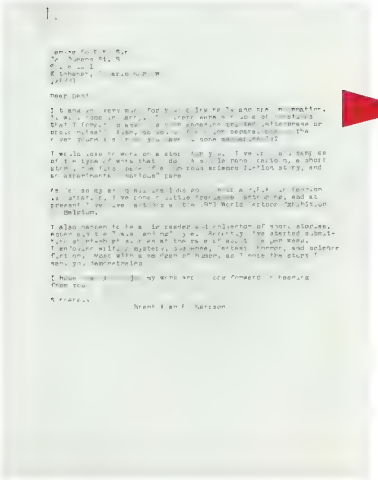
The thing is I have no samples of that length to show you. Most of my work to date has been an avarage of three pages. The longest work that I've done so far is my own book, which will be twenty-two pages long. So far I'm up to page nine.

But, I've spent this weekend scripting a ten pager for you. It is a fantasy-crime story. I love sword and sorcery stories, but I get bored looking at the usual run of the mill dumb-barbarian-meets-the-evil-wizard stuff. My story is about a battle between a pair of master criminals that is set in a fantasy version of the 1920's. It will contain humor, many weird settings, and just about anything else I can think of. If you've ever read any of the Fu Manchu books or seen the film: "The Abominable Dr. Phibes," you might like the story.

I'm almost finnished with the roughs and I'll begin on the the artwork Monday. It should be in the mail to by late Friday or early Saturday. I hope that you will enjoy it.

Sincerely,

Brant Alan Richardson



Denise Loubert Sim
221 Queens St. S.
Suite 1401
Kitchener, Ontario n2g 1w5
4/5/81

Dear Deni

I thank you very much for your quick reply and the information. It will come in handy. But there were a couple of questions that I forgot to ask: is your magazine printed letterpress or photo-offset? Also, do you do the color separations on the cover yourelves or do you have it done mechanically?

I would love to work on a story for you. I've enclosed samples of the type of work that I do. A single panel cartoon, a short story, the first page of a humorous science fiction story, and an experimental "serious" page.

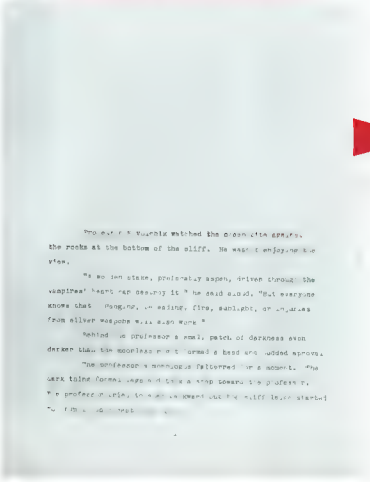
As far as my art qualifications go, I hold a B.F.A. in fashion illustration, I've done a little freelance cartooning, and at present I've five cartoons at the 1981 World Cartoon Exhibition in Belgium.

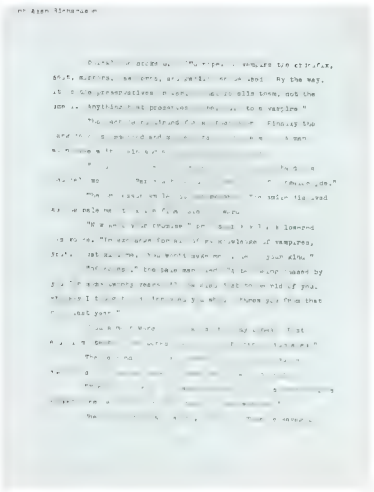
I also happen to be a big reader and collector of short stories, especialy the "twist ending" type. Recently I've started submitting short-short stories at the rate of about one per week. I enjoying writing mystery, suspense, fantasy, horror, and science fiction. Most with a smidgen of humor, as I hope the story I sent you demonstrates.

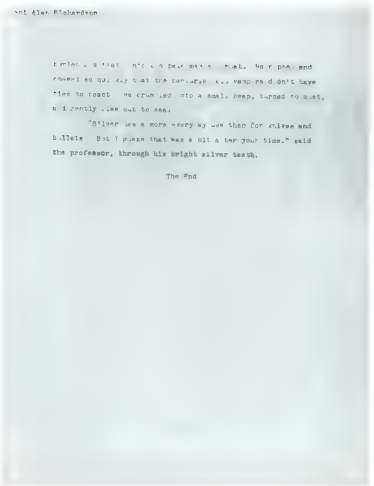
I hope that you enjoy my work and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Brent Alan Richardson







Professor Kovolchik watched the ocean bite against the rocks at the bottom of the cliff. He wasn't enjoying the view.

"A wooden stake, preferably aspen, driven through the vampires' heart can destroy it." he said aloud. "But everyone knows that. Hanging, beheading, fire, sunlight, or injuries from silver weapons will also work."

Behind the professor a small patch of darkness even darker than the moonless night formed a head and nodded aproval.

The professor's monologue falterred for a moment. The dark thing formed legs and took a step toward the professor. The professor tried to step backward but the cliff ledge started to crumble underneath his foot.

Quickly he spoke up. "To repell a vampire, the crucifix, salt, mirrors, hawthorns, and garlic can be used. By the way, it is the preservatives in garlic that repells them, not the smell. Anything that preserves is painfull to a vampire."

The lecture continued for another hour. Finally the dark patch shimmerred and molded itself into a man. A man with pale white skin and a most unpleasant smile.

"This explains much." he said. "Now I understand how you held me off in Paris with a squirt gun full of formaldehyde."

The professor smiled at the memory. The smile disolved as the pale man took the final step forward.

"Now keep your promise." professor Kovolchik lowered his voice. "In exchange for all of my knowledge of vampires, you'll just kill me. You won't make me...one of your kind."

"Of course." the pale man lied. "After being chased by you for some twenty years I'll be glad just to be rid of you. Frankly I thought I'd finnished you when I threw you from that roof last year."

"You almost were. I broke most of my bones. Lost all of my teeth. But bones heal, and teeth can be replaced."

The pale man dug his fingers into the professor's shoulders. He reared back his head and bared his fangs.

"Tonight it ends. No more tricks, no more silver bullets. Broken bones will soon be the least of your worries."

The professor just smiled, briefly. Then he savagely buried his teeth into the pale man's throat. He ripped and chewed so quickly that the centuries old vampire didn't have time to react. He crumpled into a small heap, turned to dust, and gently blew out to sea.

"Silver has a more everyday use than for knives and bullets. But I guess that was a bit after your time." said the professor, through his bright silver teeth.

The End

Fangs for the Memories

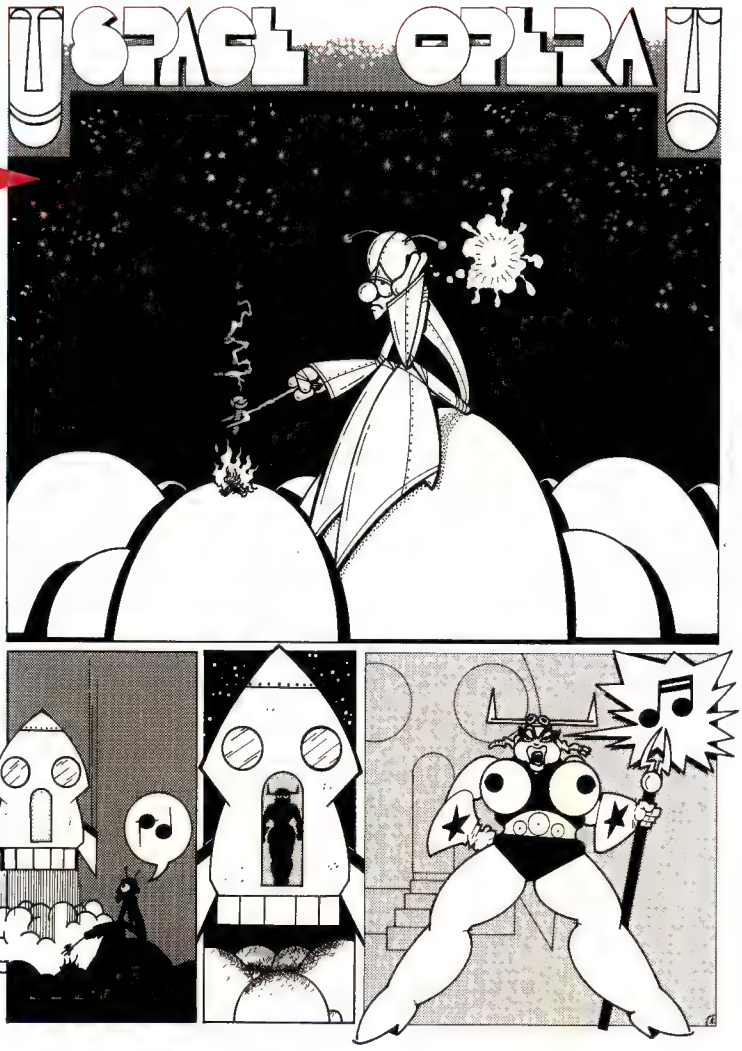
by

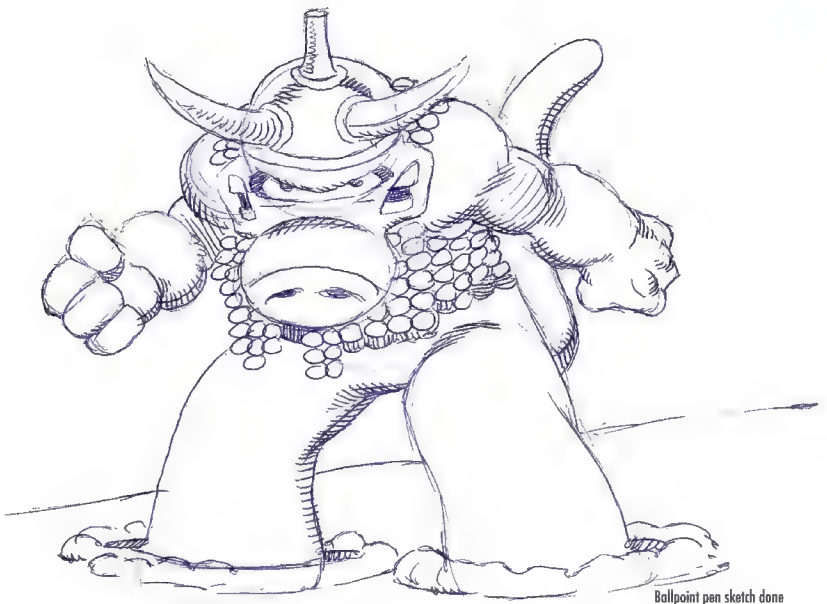
Brent Alan Richardson

480 Village Drive

Columbus, Ohio 43214

263-1174



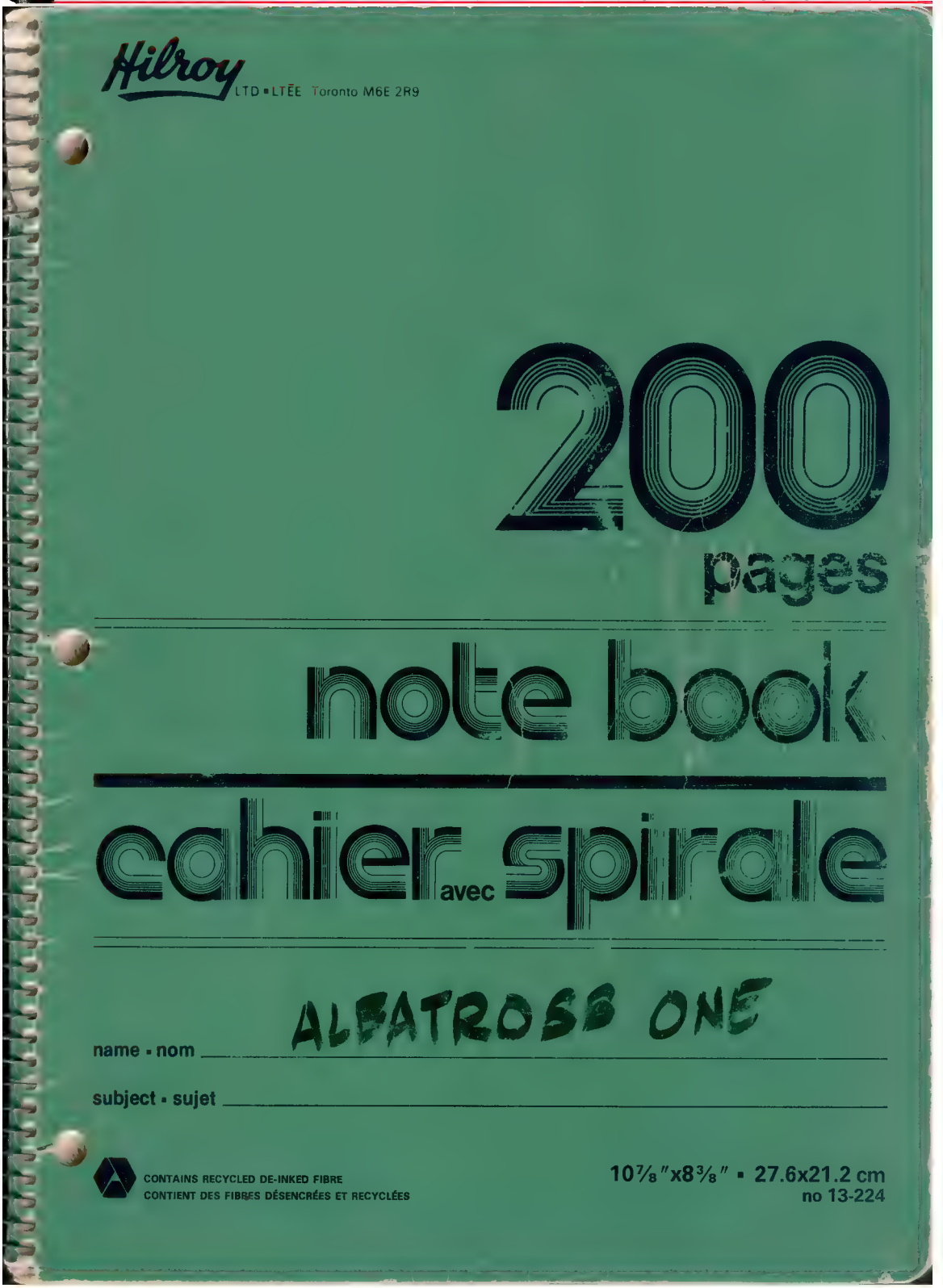


Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

Ballpoint pen sketch done in association with the 2012 KickStarter Campaign.

CEREBUS ARCHIVE NOTEBOOKS

"Albatross One"



I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

27 THE ALLIANCES BREAK DOWN. EVERYONE GOES TO WAR
28 LORD JULIUS TELLS GORCE EVERYTHING HE KNOWS
IS HIS TO KEEP
29 GORCE CONQUERS FOUR NEIGHBORING CITIES

GLUTTONY CEREBUS TRYING TO LASSO
THE LAST POTATO ON A
BANQUET TABLE.

CEREBUS No. 27 (MAY, 1981) —
"THE "KIDNAPPING OF THE EARTH-PIG'"
OPENS ON TWO GUYS WAITING FOR CEREBUS TO COME ALONG
CEREBUS IS GOING TO PUT TOGETHER A SMALL-SCALE
REVOLUTION
THE CHALICE of

PAGES one to FIVE
CEREBUS KNOWS TO ASK FOR A NATIONAL
TREASURE "THE CUP OF TWO ROSES"
POSSESSOR CAN MAKE A LEGAL CHALLENGE
FOR CONTROL OF PALNU. --GIVE IT TO YOU
OR YOU WILL USE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
COUNCIL OF FIVE ELDERS. DISCOVERED ON
CEREBUS' PERSON AT THE TIME OF HIS KIDNAPPING
GOES AND DISCUSSES KIDNAPPING PLAN WITH KIDNAPPERS
HAS TO LEARN TO SAY "I" INSTEAD OF CEREBUS.
- DELIVER RANSOM DEMAND.
- GET THE RANSOM .. AND HERE IT IS .. NOW THE NEXT
PAGE TWENTY STEP IS .. UNIVAC!

PAGE ONE - CONFRONTATION CEREBUS
PAGE TWO - BEATS THE CHICKEN SOUP OUT OF THEM
PAGE THREE - SCAM? WHAT KIND OF SCAM. -- WON'T WORK
YEAH RIGHT, IT'S ALL OVER ANYWAY AIN'T IT
LET'S GO HAVE A DRINK AND TALK IT OVER
PAGE FOUR - ONE OF OUR DRINKIN COMPANIONS HAS GOT A
JOB WAITING TRASH AT THE OLD REGENCY

HSANB 1/27/28/29 - Notes on what is going on "behind the scenes" in the macro-political context in issues 27, 28 and 29 "The Kidnapping of the Earth-Pig" rough outline. "The Albatross" is originally called "The Cup of Two Roses" and Cerebus asked for it specifically. Instead, I had him sign the ransom note from "The Eye in the Pyramid", the "hidden name" of the Kevillists, which led the cash-poor Iestans to use "The Albatross" to pay the ransom, assuming the Kevillists would be more than happy with the substitution. Not realizing that it was Cerebus who had no idea what the "damn duck statue" was. Trying to get past page 2 of No.27.

PAGE FIVE WE FIGURED YOU WAS WORTH AN
EASY THREE FOUR HUNDRED
ME OLD MUM IS GONNA BE
PROUDER OUT IN THE COLD
SAVE IT WHEN YOU'VE
GOT A STRING SECTION TO
WEW BACK YOU UP...

1) ADDRESS THE LETTER TO THE DESK CLERK AT THE
REGENCY, [redacted]

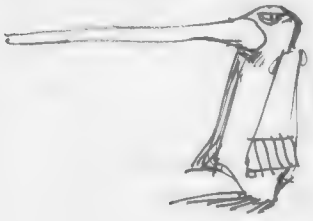
2) INSTEAD OF THREAT OF KILLING CEREBUS,
WE TELL HIM THAT [redacted] SEND
WORD TO THE BRAINTRUST OF PALNU THAT THEIR
RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE WAS
LOST TO THE "EYE IN THE PYRAMID" REVOLUTIONARY
GROUP BY JESTI SECURITY FORCES

3) THE EYE IN THE WOT? THE AYE AND THE WOT?
PYRAMID. LORD JULIUS WILL KNOW WHO IT IS
IF OUR FRIEND WANTS TO CHECK. CEREBUS IS BETTING
THROUGH THAT HE'LL JUST BUNDLE UP THE RANSOM
BEFORE WORD REACHES HIS MORE AFFLUENT BUSINESS
ASSOCIATES

4) WHAT ARE YOU-WE-GOIN TO ASK FOR?
CEREBUS THINKS HE'S ASKING FOR SOMETHING VALUABLE
THAT A REVOLUTIONARY GROUP WOULD WANT.
- CEREBUS CAN SELL
- THAT THE DESK CLERK WOULD BE ABLE
TO PUT HIS HANDS ON

HSANB 2/27 - Still trying to work it as if Cerebus knew what the "duck statue" was instead of just using "The Eye in the Pyramid" because he had a general idea that they were a Palnan revolutionary group.

DESK CLERK IS A MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION OF WHICH LORD JULIUS U A MEMBER DYNAMIC DISCORDIA
THAT'S WHY HE WANTED CEREBUS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY FROM IESTAN BUSINESSMEN TO PERSUADE HIM TO GO BACK TO PALNU and HELP LORD JULIUS.
CONSEQUENTLY WHEN THE RANSOM DEMAND CAME IN IT ~~W~~ IS SENT TO LORD JULIUS BY SPECIAL COURIER
SENDS "THE ALBATROSS" SACRED SYMBOL OF THE "EYE IN THE PYRAMID" AS RANSOM DEMAND
– JULIUS KNOWS IT'S NOT A REAL COMMUNIQUE AS IT'S NOT ON THE RIGHT PAPER. WE WHO HOLDS THE ALBATROSS



ALBATROSS IS REGETASED FROM SAFE AT THE REGENCY
FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER IN THE SWAN BOAT.
PICKED UP BY THE KIDNAPPERS

KIDNAPPERS MURDERED - ALBATROSS IS TAKEN BY THE CIRINISTS
~~ONE OF THEM MURDERED~~ - PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND OUT OF IEST SECRETED IN THE LOFT OF CIRINIST CHURCH IN DOVESMIRE – PRIESTESS OF DOVESMIRE IS ONE OF LORD JULIUS' AGENTS IN IEST – TAKES THE ALBATROSS SENDS MESSAGE TO LJ THAT SHE IS BRINGING IT WITH HER TO PALNU SHOULD ARRIVE IN A WEEK – TAKING SOUTHERLY ROUTE WITH CARAVAN. – SISTER SHE SENDS WITH A MESSAGE

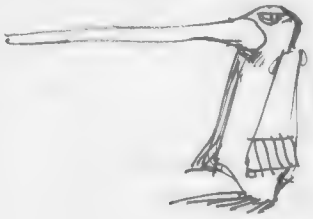
CIRIN – CIRINISTS · ALBATROSS IS A CENTRAL FOCUS FOR TARAMITES (AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE) SUITABLY RIGHT WING GROUP

CIRIN IS IN THE REGENCY POSING AS WIDOW OF A FAMOUS IESTAN GENERAL EVERY FEMALE IS AN UPPER ECHELON CIRINIST.

HSANB 3/27 - What was going on behind the scenes with "The Albatross" [initial plotting. "Dynamic Discordia" is a placeholder name but the desk clerk would have been one of Lord Julius' agents and would have forwarded the ransom demand. "Julius knows it's not a real communique [from the "Eye in the Pyramid"] as it's not on the right paper [they have specially made, specially treated paper to keep non-"Eye in the Pyramid" individuals from pretending to be members, a fact known to Lord Julius, who actually has his own supply of the paper which he uses sparingly].

continued...

DESK CLERIC IS A MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION OF WHICH LORD JULIUS U A MEMBER DYNAMIC DISCORDIA
THAT'S WHY HE WANTED CEREBUS TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY FROM IESTAN BUSINESSMEN TO PERSUADE HIM TO GO BACK TO PALNU and HELP LORD JULIUS.
CONSEQUENTLY WHEN THE RANSOM DEMAND CAME IN IT ~~W~~ IS SENT TO LORD JULIUS BY SPECIAL COURIER SENDS "THE ALBATROSS" SACRED SYMBOL OF THE "EYE IN THE PYRAMID" AS RANSOM DEMAND
– JULIUS KNOWS IT'S NOT A REAL COMMUNIQUE AS IT'S NOT ON THE RIGHT PAPER. WE WHO HOLDS THE ALBATROSS



ALBATROSS IS RELEASED FROM SAFE AT THE REGENCY
FLOATED DOWN THE RIVER IN THE SMALL BOAT.
PICKED UP BY THE KIDNAPPERS

KIDNAPPERS MURDERED - ALBATROSS IS TAKEN BY THE CIRINISTS
~~ONE OF THEIR MURDERED~~ - PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND OUT OF IEST SECRETED IN THE LOFT OF CIRINIST CHURCH IN DOVESMIRE – PRIESTESS OF DOVESMIRE IS ONE OF LORD JULIUS' AGENTS IN IEST – TAKES THE ALBATROSS SENDS MESSAGE TO LJ THAT SHE IS BRINGING IT WITH HER TO PALNU SHOULD ARRIVE IN A WEEK – TAKING SOUTHERLY ROUTE WITH CARAVAN. – SISTER SHE SENDS WITH A MESSAGE

CIRIN – CIRINISTS – ALBATROSS IS A CENTRAL FOCUS FOR TARIMITES (LORD ORDER CONSERVATIVE) SUITABLY RIGHT WING CHAP

CIRIN IS IN THE REGENCY
POSING AS WIDOW OF A FAMOUS IESTAN GENERAL
EVERY FEMALE IS AN UPPER ECHELON CIRINIST.

"[On Lord Julius' instructions, leaked on 'Eye in the Pyramid' paper the] 'Albatross' is released from [a] safe at The Regency". Of course, it isn't the real Albatross. The idea is that the Cirinists and Kevillists embark on a "Mad, Mad, Mad World" style rugby game with it, decimating their own ranks. Astoria is sure that Cerebus has the Albatross which is why she moves in to the Ambassador Suite, so she can search for it - Albatross sketch.

LORD JULIUS ACCOMPLISHES WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO
GET SOME MAJOR CIRINISTS AND ORTHODOX TARIMITES
BUMPED OFF

~~#27~~ #28

#28 TRY TO COME UP WITH ARTIST'S VERSION OF CEREBUS.

*(REACTION OF DESK CLERK * (1 page
TO RECEIPT OF RANSOM DEMANDS)

- IS HE RIGHT
- YES, SIR STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW AND NOTHING BUT FLATLAND FOR FOUR MILES IN ALL DIRECTIONS
- REVIEW OF THE RANSOM
- WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
- IT'S A SMALL STATUETTE
- WHAT? LET CEREBUS SEE!
- CEREBUS DOESN'T GET IT....
- SEE, WE FIGURE WE CAN SELL IT, Y'KNOW...

THE ALBATROSS CEREBUS ADDS UP HOW MUCH WE GOT WHILE SITTING IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE REGENCY. MULTIPLIES BY THE DOZEN OR SO BUSINESS MEN WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHAT WITH -- QUARTER OF A MILLION CROWNS.

DEMAND ARRIVED -- ~~[illegible]~~
TOLD HIS HOLINESS CAMUS II RANSOM WAS PAID. LORD JULIUS GETS BANK DRAUGHT FOR A QUARTER MILLION

HSANB 4/27 - "Lord Julius accomplishes what he set out to do: get some major Cirinists and Orthodox Tarimites bumped off." The rest of the page is still plotting Cerebus getting the Albatross – but NOT knowing what it is – and the kidnappers getting murdered. I moved all that COMPLETELY behind the scenes so that Cerebus would have this exponential rise in his perceived significance while he wouldn't have any idea why all of the "major Cirinists and Orthodox Tarimites" were getting "bumped off."

SENDS DESK CLERK THE ALBATROSS WHICH IS SUBSTITUTED AS THE RANSOM. "FORTUNATELY WE REALIZED WITHIN A HALF HOUR THAT THE RANSOM NOTE MIGHT NOT BE FROM THE REAL EYE IN THE PYRAMID AND QUICKLY NOTIFIED ALL OF HIS DOUBLE AGENTS THAT THE ALBATROSS WAS BEING USED AS A RANSOM FOR [redacted] YOUR SAFE RETURN.

[redacted] SHIPS LEAVING FOR TEST FROM ANY CITY ON THE SOUTHERN COAST WERE SUDDENLY BOOKED SOLID FOR WEEKS ON END. WITHIN AN HOUR THE [redacted] ORIGINAL KIDNAPPERS WERE DEAD AND THE ALBATROSS WAS IN THE HANDS OF A GROUP OF CIRCINISTS LED BY DAYNA YAN'DA -- THE ONE YOU MET THAT FIRST NIGHT AFTER YOU WERE RELEASED BY THE [redacted] ORIGINAL KIDNAPPERS SHE IS THE [redacted] HIGH PRIESTESS OF AN UNDERGROUND CIRCINIST CHURCH IN DOVESHIRE COUNTY. SHE MADE THE MISTAKE OF HIDING IT IN THE LOFT OF THE CHURCH UNAWARE THAT SHE WAS BEING OBSERVED BY THREE SEPARATE [redacted] PEOPLE. THE FIRST WAS JAIRO' -- THE MAN WHO INTERRUPTED [redacted] YOUR PACKING. HE HAD THE BIRD WITH HIM WHEN HE CAME TO SEE YOU. HE HOPED THAT BY DEMONSTRATING AN INTEREST IN YOU, HE WOULD CONVINCE EVERYONE THAT THE BIRD HAD BEEN TAKEN BY SOMEONE ELSE

HE THREW TWO OF THEM OFF THE SCENT

PEOPLE KEEP COMING IN WITH AMAZING WEAPONS TO THREATEN CEREBUS

THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT CEREBUS KNOWS

I JAIRO HAD A NOTE HAND-DELIVERED TO HER DOOR ASKING HER TO BRING MEDICINE TO THE VILLAGE WHEN EVERYONE ELSE SAW THE BAG

HSANB 5/27 - Again, all of this was moved behind the scenes.

#27

1 THREE LADS LYING IN WAIT ERE HE COMES
HOLD ON
THE KIDNAPPING of an EARTH-PIG

2 BEATS THEM UP...

3 EXPLAINING KIDNAPPING

4 WE GOT ~~[illegible]~~ CEREBUS. DEMANDS
TO FOLLOW
~~[illegible]~~

5 NOW WE NEED A BACKROOM WITH
SECURITY A FENCE FOR SOME RANK DRAGGETS
CEREBUS HAS AND ABOUT THREE CASES
OF GOOD WHISKEY.
EH? WHISKEY.
WE COULD BE THERE A WHILE.

6 MAKING UP THE RANSOM NOTE ... DON'T WANT IT YOU LOST RANKING DIRK. REP. OF THIS CITY.
CROSSBOW AND SOME ROPE AND A BLACK HOLE

7. CEREBUS BOOTSOPS AND
=SPUNK=

8 THEY'RE. JUST ARRIVED, SIR
THANK YOU HENRY,

9 ENGRAVINGS -- YOU REMEMBER DON'YA? THE OLD PEACOCK
ROAD CHAP WHAT CUT UP HAVE A DOZEN
DERELICTS WITH A PAIR OF RUSTY HEDGE TRIMMERS

I SUGGEST WE ~~[illegible]~~ PRAY
THAT THEY LET THE LITTLE
EYE GO WHEN THEY'
GE THE RANSOM,
SIR.

OH TARIM ....

19 CEREBUS WOULD BE WILLING TO BET IT'S WORTH A QUARTER OF A MILLION CROWNS.

20 CEREBUS GETTING
CONKED ON THE HEAD
"I'VE GOT A

HSANB 6/27 - The basic beginning-to-end structure of "The Kidnapping of An Aardvark" arrives on one page – that didn't happen very often. Didn't know who the kidnappers were, yet, and I was toying with the idea of doing THE MALTESE FALCON – that's Peter Lorre in the lower right ("You remember, don'ya? The Old Peacock Road Chap what cut up half a dozen derelicts with a pair of rusty hedge trimmers...")...which is where the Mary Astor character, Astoria, originated.

HSANB 7/27 - Two of the original three kidnappers/first concept sketch.

#27 "THE KIDNAPPING OF AN ARDVARK."

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

IF ONE MAKES A SOUND

GUY WHO WORKS AT THE DEGENCY HAPPENS TO SEE CEREBUS LEAVE THE PUB BY HIMSELF

A DARING PLAN - LEAVE RANSOM NOTE DEMANDING MONEY FROM LORD JULIUS FOR HIS RETURN

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~

DELIVER RANSOM DEMAND .. THAT WAY FEWER PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT.

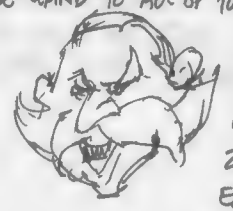
IF IT GETS BACK TO LORD JULIUS THEY'RE GOING TO FIND OUT THAT I'M NO LONGER HOLDING FOR HIM

+.. NAILHIM GET HIM OUT OF HERE

2. BEATS THEM UP 3. RANSOM NOTE 4. CEREBUS PICKS THEM UP AND DUSTS THEM OFF. 5. A REALLY QUICK. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FROM CEREBUS. HE'S GOT THE PLAN DOWN PAT BY PAGE FOUR AS WELL AS THE LOCATION .. OFF OVER THE ROOFS TO DEMAND .. PLANS DIAMONDBACK TO WIN ALL OF THEIR SHARES AND THAT'S WHEN THEY DOUBLECROSS HIM

~~[illegible]~~

PANEL ONE HAND TO ALL OF THEM "HEY WHAT'S GOING ON HERE



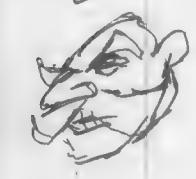
~~[illegible]~~ WELL YOU ONLY PUT IT ONE SHARE AGAINST MY SHARE -- OKAY SPLIT THE 240,000 3 WAYS -- 80,000 EACH YOU GAMBLE THREE BROTHERS ONE GETS ELIMINATED FROM THE GAME

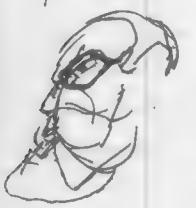
HSANB 8/27 - Trying to "flesh out' HSANB 6/27 instead of just compacting it which I start to do at the middle of the page ("2. Beats them up 3. Ransom note 4. Cerebus picks them up and dusts them off, etc."). First cartoon-style kidnapper at the bottom of the page.

COLDRIDGE CAN'T HANDLE THINKING ABOUT THAT MUCH MONEY. EARLY BETS ARE LIKE TWO CROWNS CEREBUS PLAYS THAT WAY FOR A FEW DAYS... NEGLIGIBLE DIFFERENCE IN AMOUNTS EACH GUY HAS ALSO TELLS THEM TO PUT SOME AWAY... FINDS OUT THEY CAN'T DO MATH. SO HE STARTS REALLY PRESSING THEM CRAIG CASH — CREDIT — CREDIT.

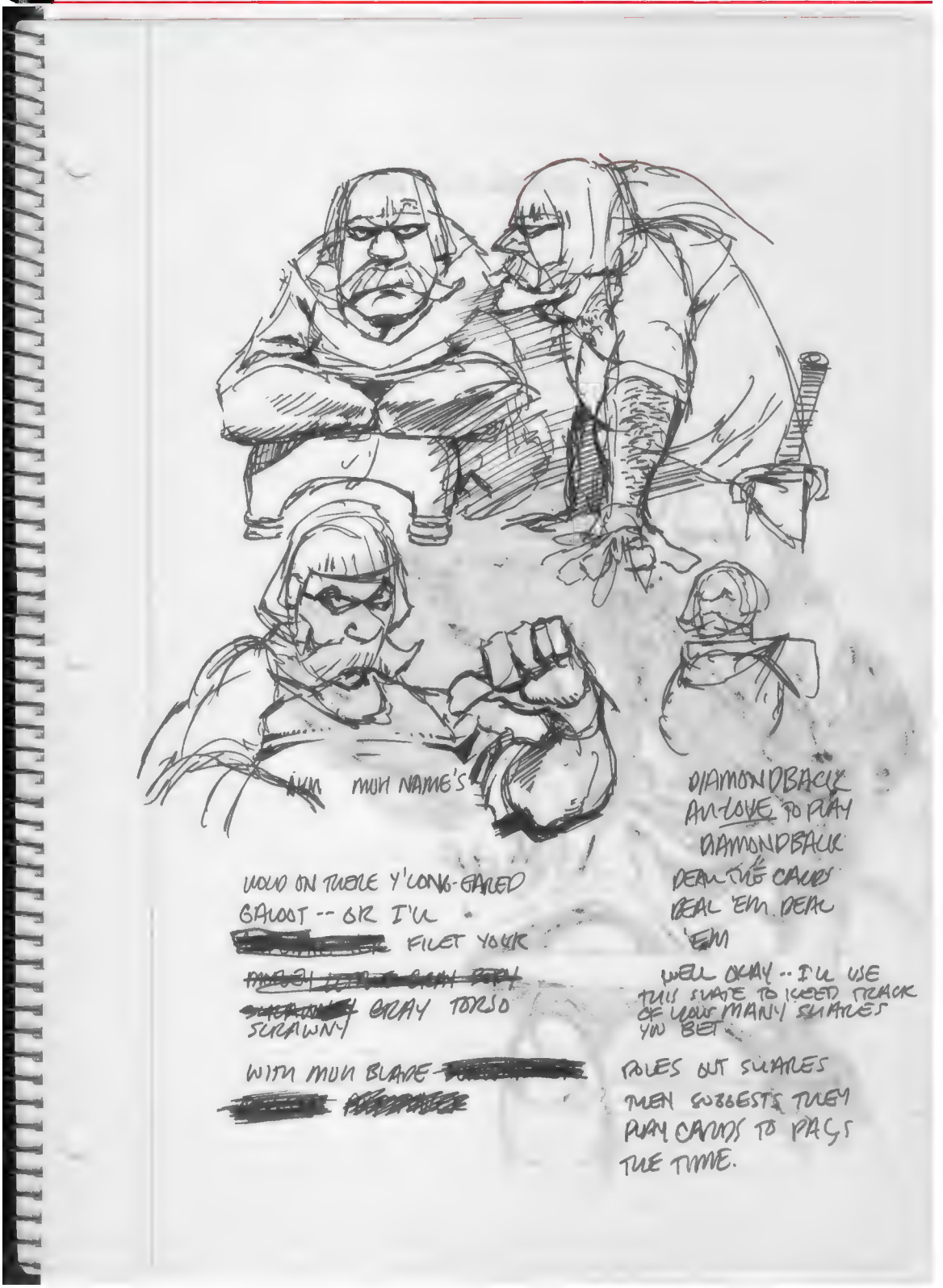
SENDING PIECE OF VEST AND HALF OF ONE OF THE BANK DRAUGHTS.
YOU BOYS CAN PLAY WHILE CEREBUS' IS GONE....
THEY CAN'T KEEP HIM FROM COMING AND GOING AS HE PLEASES... THIS IS A BIG SCORE THOUGH AND THEY KEEP STAYING TIGHT AGAINST A TIME BOMB. BOTH HAVE HAIR TRIGGER TEMPERS RED HAIRED YOSEMITE SAM TYPE AND BLACK-HAIRED YOSEMITE SAM TYPE TRANSACTIONS STARTS OFF LOW STAKES THEY MAKE A DENT IN CEREBUS' CASH, CEREBUS INTRODUCES HIGH STAKES GAME LETS THEM WIN ANOTHER THOUSAND CASH OFF OF HIM THEN LEAVES TO DELIVER THE RANSOM DEMAND ARRIVES BACK TO ABSOLUTE CHAOS THEY GET BEATEN UP AGAIN... BACK AND FORTH... [redacted]
BACK UP-- YOU'LL STILL GET A FEW THOUSAND CROWNS EACH ONCE THE NOTES ARE FENCED. EXPORT IMPORT BUSINESS WILL GIVE HAVE VALUE FOR HOT NOTES THEY CAN PUMP IN SECRET*... * WHICH IS WHERE CEREBUS INTENDS TO SPEND HIS NOTES THEY CONK HIM ON THE HEAD THEY'LL GIVE HIM BACK AND GO GET THE RANSOM THEMSELVES...

#28 CEREBUS IS GOING TO HAVE TO HIRE A SECRETARY



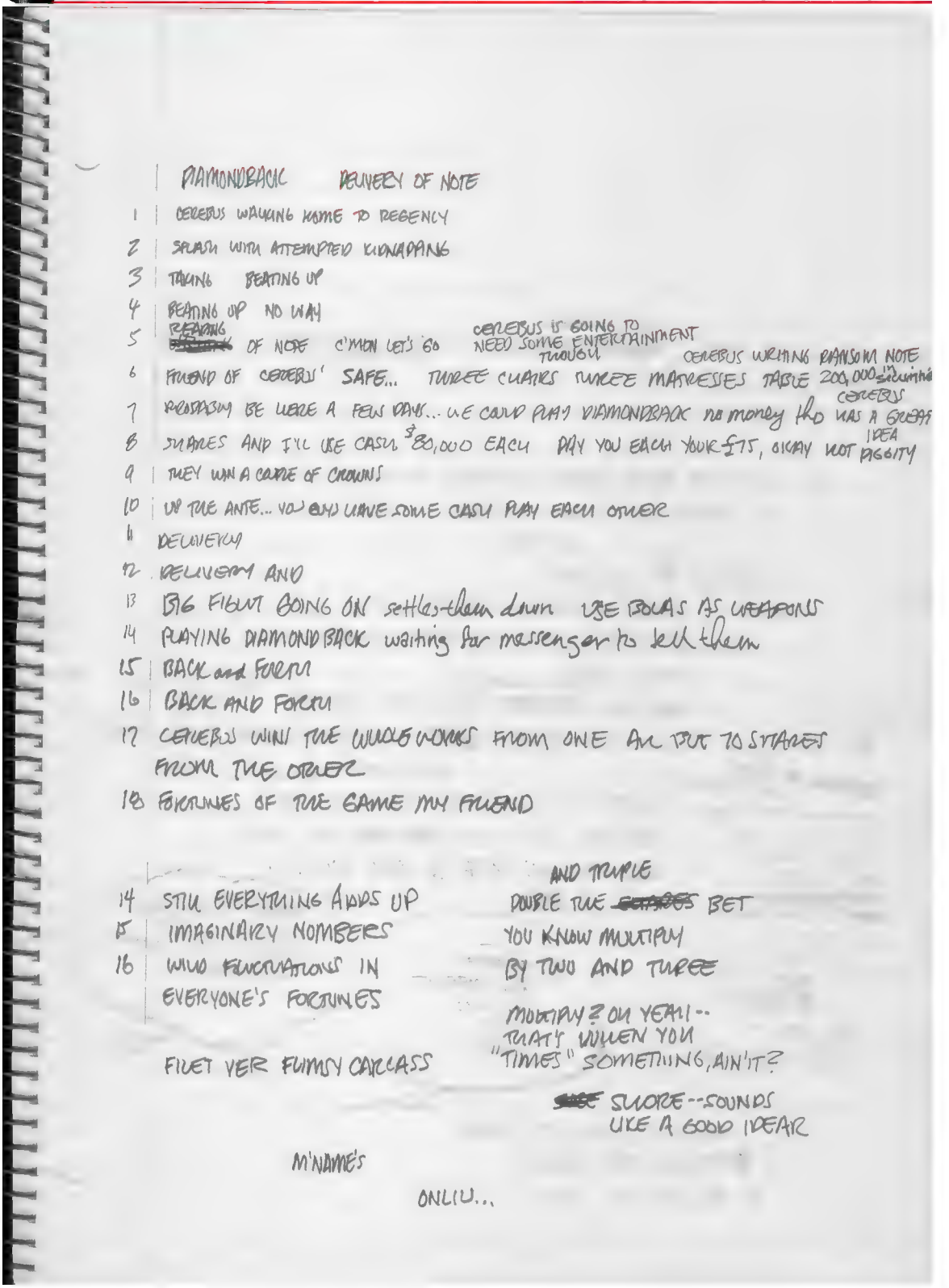


HSANB 9/27 - Still over-plotting, but switching to "funny mode" helps. Once I've got the Yosemite Sam angle I'm forcing myself to stay very basic with plotting and work at getting the "voices" as much like Yosemite Sam as possible. Quick sketches of Yosemite Sam variations.



HSANB 10/27 - Modified Yosemite Sam variations and dialogue.

HSANB 11/27 - Further modified Yosemite Sam. They needed to be big in order to at least appear to be a threat to Cerebus. Same reason I changed their swords into hammers. I also decided they needed to be realistic in the same way that Elrod was more realistic than Foghorn Leghorn.



DIAMONDBACK DELIVERY OF NOTE

1 CEREBUS WALKING HOME TO REGENCY
2 SPLASH WITH ATTEMPTED KIDNAPPING
3 TALKING BEATING UP
4 BEATING UP NO WAY
5 ~~READING~~ OF NOTE C'MON LET'S GO CEREBUS IS GOING TO NEED SOME ENTERTAINMENT THROUGH
6 FRIEND OF CEREBUS' SAFE... THREE CHAIRS THREE MATRESSES TABLE CEREBUS WRITING RANSOM NOTE 200,000 IN SWIMMING
7 PROBABLY BE HERE A FEW DAYS... WE COULD PLAY DIAMONDBACK NO MONEY TILL CEREBUS HAS A GREAT
8 SHARES AND I'LL USE CASH $80,000 EACH PAY YOU EACH YOUR £75, OKAY NOT IDEA PIGGITY
9 THEY WIN A CARDE OF CROWNS
10 UP THE ANTE... YOU END UP HAVE SOME CASH PLAY EACH OTHER
11 DELIVERY
12 DELIVERY AND
13 BIG FIGHT GOING ON settles them down USE BOLAS AS WEAPONS
14 PLAYING DIAMONDBACK waiting for messenger to tell them
15 BACK and FORTH
16 BACK AND FORTH
17 CEREBUS WINS THE WHOLE WORKS FROM ONE AND PUT TO STAKES FROM THE OTHER
18 FORTUNES OF THE GAME MY FRIEND

14 STILL EVERYTHING ADDS UP — AND TRIPLE
15 IMAGINARY NUMBERS — DOUBLE THE ~~STAKES~~ BET
16 WILD FLUCTUATIONS IN EVERYONE'S FORTUNES — YOU KNOW MULTIPLY BY TWO AND THREE

MULTIPLY? OH YEAH!-- THAT'S WHEN YOU "TIMES" SOMETHING, AIN'T IT?

FILET YER FLIMSY CARCASS

~~SURE~~ SWORE--SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEAR

M'NAME'S

ONLIU...

HSANB 12/27 - Page by page continuity, pretty close to what I went with.

17
18
19
20

THE GAME DIRTY FLEAGLE ~~MACGREW~~ McGREW THIS WERE'S M'BROTHER DIRTY DREW CEREBUS

HAND 1 FULL PAGE bet

HAND 2 FULL PAGE

6 WHEN THEY REACH TAVERN CEREBUS INSTRUCTS THEM TO CARRY THEIR STUFF UPSTAIRS "THOSE CLIMBS A TABLE

BE NEEDING AN ~~OIL~~ OIL LAMP

COUPLE OF CANDLES THERE ARE

APT TO BE A FEW SCUFFLES WHILE

WE'RE HERE TWO HUNDRED

HAVE THIS ~~FIGGIS AND~~ POUND NOTE CASHED

THANK YOU EVEN FOR THIS BANK DRAFT.

IN TO SINGLES -- ~~WHICH~~ I WANT THE MONEY TO BE STOLEN

AND FORTY

ASKING FOR TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS

RANSOM OR WE WILL ~~KILL HIM~~ KILL HIM

AND SEND HIS HEAD TO LORD JESUS IN

A BAG...

Pg 13

~~YES CHECK~~ DID CEREBUS MISS ANYTHING?

I'LL STEP OUT FOR A CALL A NATURE AND THIS HERE ~~[illegible]~~ NO-GOOD WAS A-FIXIN' TO SLOP AWAY

MAN IT'S ~~MY~~ MONEY! AN I WON IT FAIR 'N SQUARE!

I'LL ~~BE HAVE IT~~ DELIVERED IT TO THE DESK CLERK

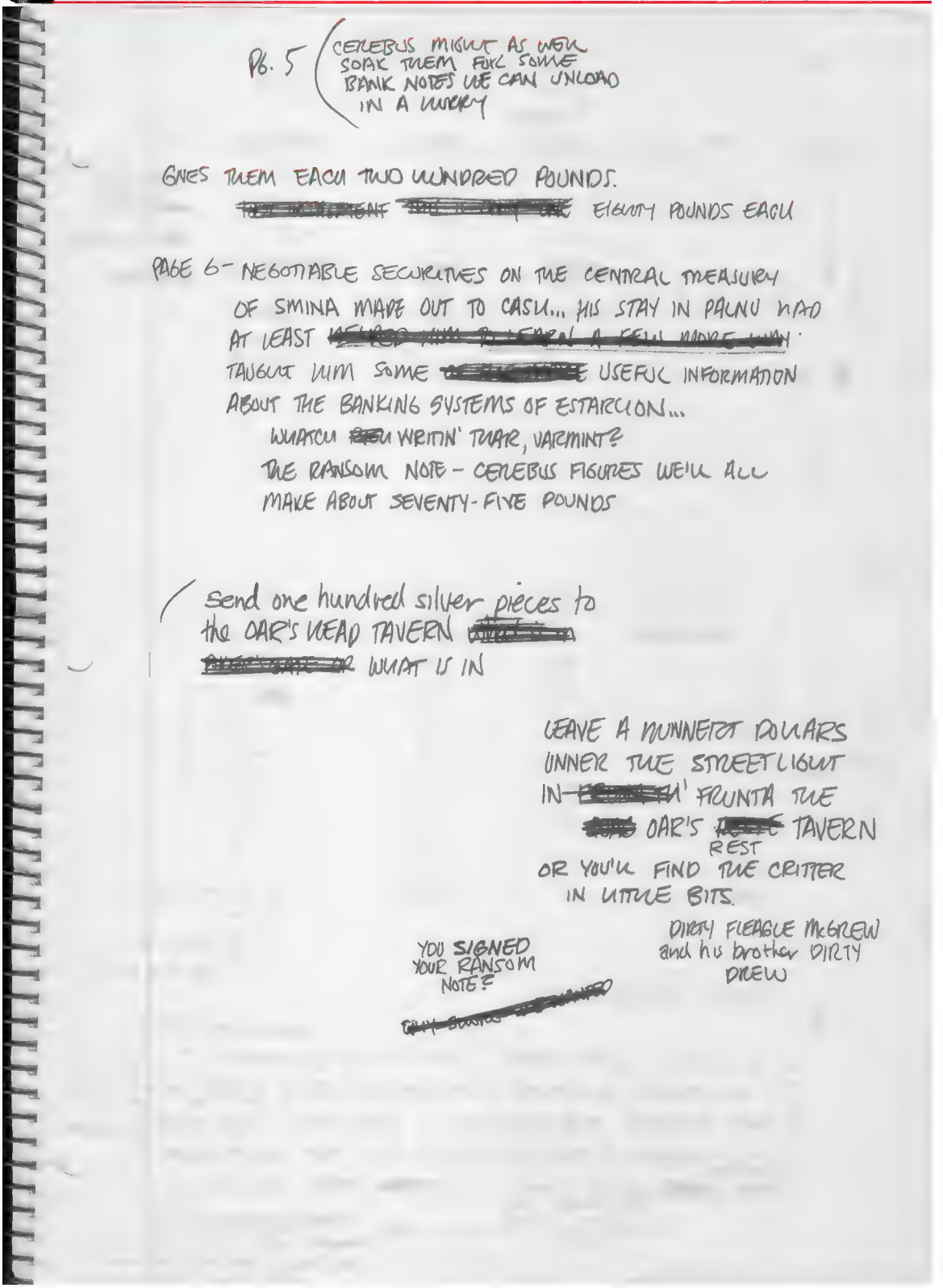
CEREBUS CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE DESK CLERK'S FACE WHEN HE READS THIS "

EACH GETS SHARE OF RANSOM

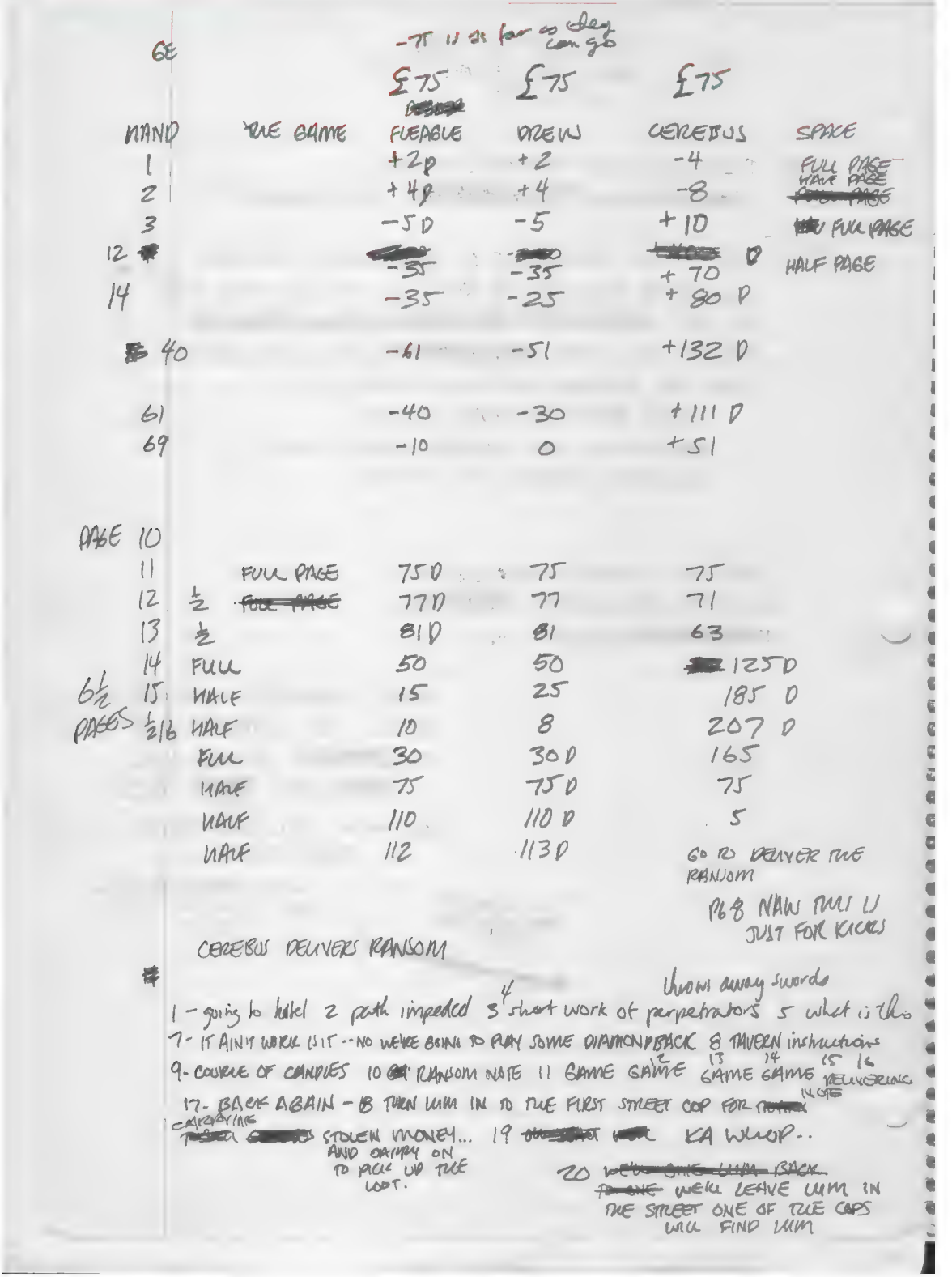
£ ~~[illegible]~~ 80,000 FOR FLEAGLE

& 80,000 FOR DREW

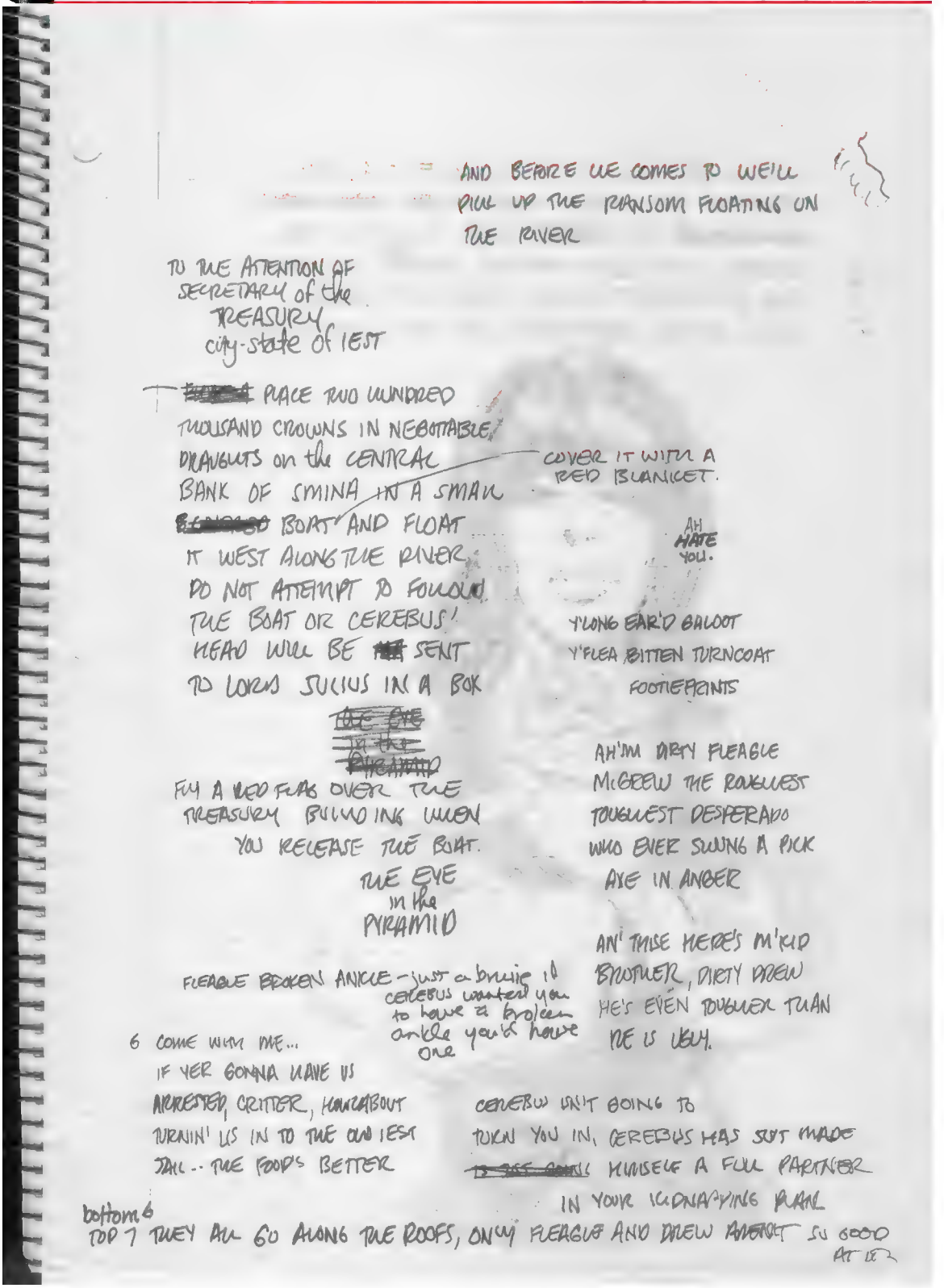
HSANB 13/27 - Stray thoughts, fleshing out the continuity.


Pg. 5
CEREBUS MIGHT AS WELL SOAK THEM FOR SOME BANK NOTES WE CAN UNLOAD IN A MARKET
GIVES THEM EACH TWO HUNDRED POUNDS.
EIGHTY POUNDS EACH
PAGE 6- NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES ON THE CENTRAL TREASURY OF SMINA MAKE OUT TO CASH... HIS STAY IN PALNU HAD AT LEAST
TAUGHT HIM SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE BANKING SYSTEMS OF ESTARCION...
WHATCH WRITIN' THAR, VARMINT?
THE RANSOM NOTE - CEREBUS FIGURES WE'LL ALL MAKE ABOUT SEVENTY-FIVE POUNDS
Send one hundred silver pieces to the OAR'S HEAD TAVERN
WHAT IS IN
LEAVE A HUNNERT DOLLARS UNNER THE STREETLIGHT IN FRUNTA THE OAR'S REST TAVERN OR YOU'LL FIND THE CRITTER IN LITTLE BITS.
DIRTY FLEAGLE McGREW and his brother DIRTY DREW
YOU SIGNED YOUR RANSOM NOTE?

HSANB 14/27 - Stray thoughts, usually going in the direction of "over-plotting" all of which needed to be thinned out. Occasionally, I'd come up with a finished gag in the notebook ("You SIGNED the ransom note") but most of the time I'd come up with finished dialogue on the page while I was laying it out and penciling it.



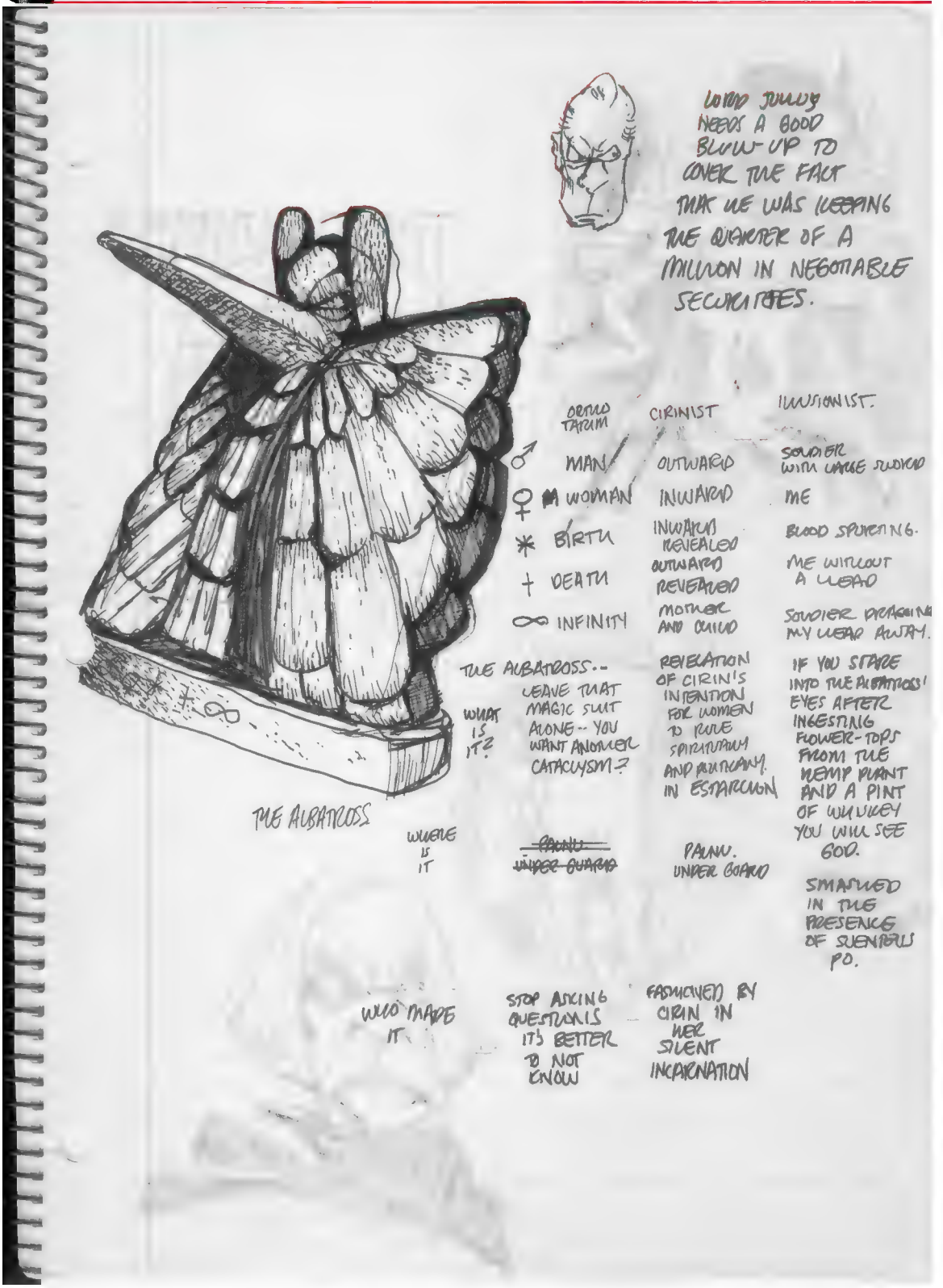
HSANB 15/27 - More examples of "over-plotting" – how each hand of Diamondback would play out.



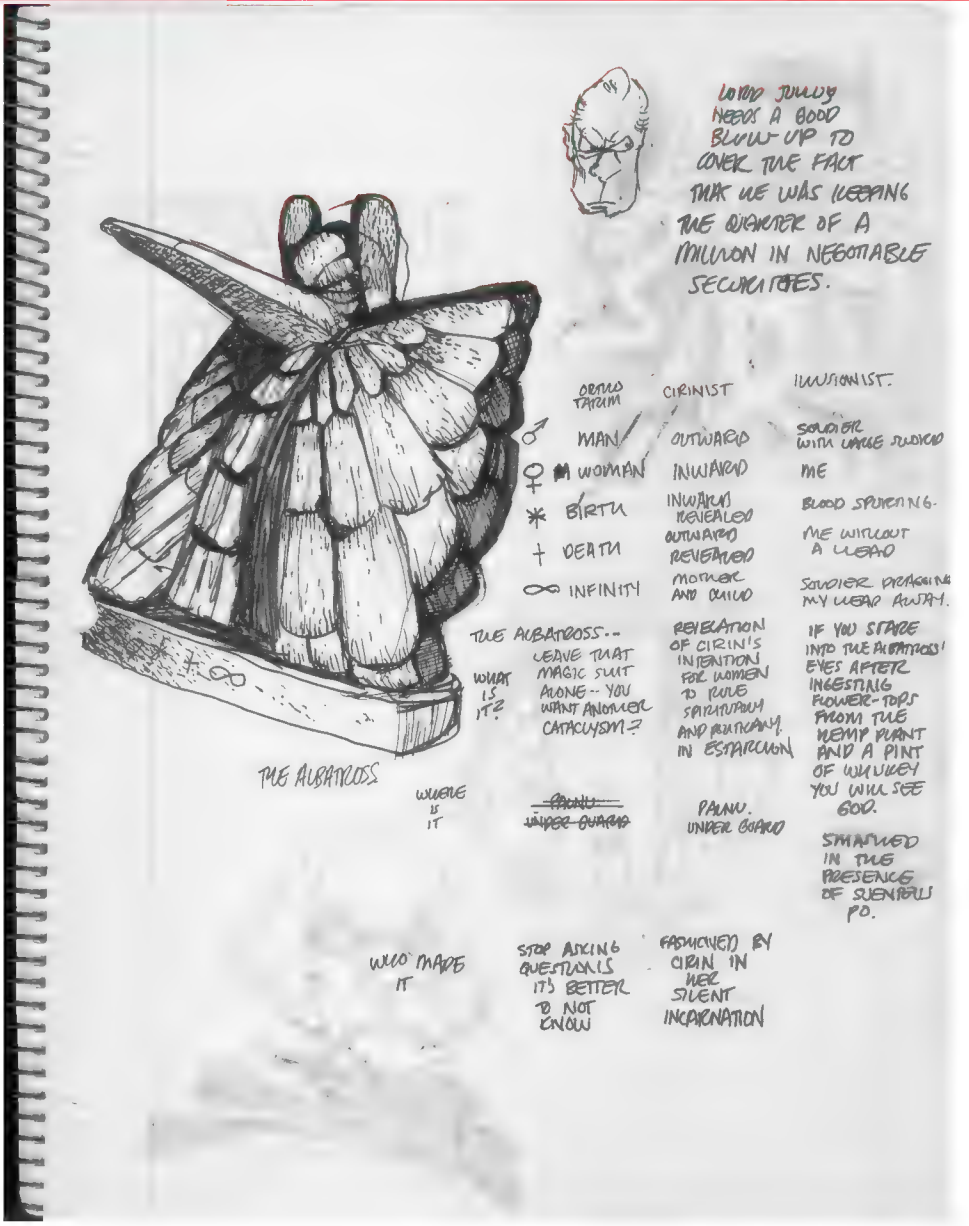
HSANB 16/27 - The ransom note in its rough form; "Yosemite Samisms": "Y'long ear'd galoot"; "Y'flea bitten turncoat"; "footieprints"; "Ahm Dirty Fleagle McGrew, the Roughest Toughest Desperado who ever swung a pick axe in anger…an' this here's m'kid brother, Dirty Drew, he's even tougher than he is ugly." None of it finished but just getting me thinking in the right direction.

CEREBUS WAS GOING TO NEED SOMEONE TO ATTRACT ATTENTION AWAY FROM HIMSELF [redacted] HE'D [redacted] HAVE TO LAY UP FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND WE NEEDED SOMEONE TO KEEP HIM ENTERTAINED. NOTHING MORE ENTERTAINING THAN PLAYING DIAMONDBACK WITH ONLIU FREELANCERS!

HSANB 17/27 - Early version of Astoria when I had (I thought) abandoned the "Mary Astor" character. Based on Chrissie Hynde of THE PRETENDERS.


LORD JULIUS NEEDS A GOOD BLOW-UP TO COVER THE FACT THAT HE WAS KEEPING THE QUARTER OF A MILLION IN NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES.
ORTHO TARIM
CIRINIST
ILLUSIONIST
MAN
OUTWARD
SOLDIER WITH LARGE SWORD
WOMAN
INWARD
ME
BIRTH
INWARD REVEALED
BLOOD SPURTING.
DEATH
OUTWARD REVEALED
ME WITHOUT A HEAD
INFINITY
MOTHER AND CHILD
SOLDIER DRAGGING MY HEAD AWAY.
THE ALBATROSS..
LEAVE THAT MAGIC SUIT ALONE -- YOU WANT ANOTHER CATACLYSM?
REVELATION OF CIRIN'S INTENTION FOR WOMEN TO RULE SPIRITUALLY AND POLITICALLY IN ESTARCION
IF YOU STARE INTO THE ALBATROSS' EYES AFTER INGESTING FLOWER-TOPS FROM THE HEMP PLANT AND A PINT OF WHISKEY YOU WILL SEE GOD.
SMASHED IN THE PRESENCE OF SUENTEUS PO.
WHAT IS IT?
THE ALBATROSS
WHERE IS IT
~~PALNU. UNDER GUARD~~
PALNU. UNDER GUARD
WHO MADE IT
STOP ASKING QUESTIONS IT'S BETTER TO NOT KNOW
FASCINATED BY CIRIN IN HER SILENT INCARNATION

HSANB 18/27 - Albatross sketch with the symbols (which I remembered from the BEN CASEY TV show) for Man, Woman, Birth, Death and Infinity carved into the base, comparing what the different factions in Estarcion would see in those symbols. Orthodox Tarimite: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity; Cirinist: Outward, Inward, Inward Revealed, Outward Revealed, Mother and Child; Illusionist: Soldier with Large Sword, Me, Blood Spurting, Me Without a Head, Soldier Dragging My Head Away. *continued...*


LORD JULIUS NEEDS A GOOD BLOW-UP TO COVER THE FACT THAT HE WAS KEEPING THE DAUGHTER OF A MILLION IN NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES.
ORTHO TARUM
CIRINIST
ILLUSIONIST
MAN
OUTWARD
SOLDIER WITH UNCLE JULIUS
WOMAN
INWARD
ME
BIRTH
INWARD REVEALED
BLOOD SPURTING
DEATH
OUTWARD REVEALED
ME WITHOUT A HEAD
INFINITY
MOTHER AND CHILD
SOLDIER DRAGGING MY HEAD AWAY.
THE ALBATROSS...
LEAVE THAT MAGIC SHIT ALONE -- YOU WANT ANOTHER CATACLYSM?
REVELATION OF CIRIN'S INTENTION FOR WOMEN TO RULE SPIRITUALLY AND POLITICALLY IN ESTARCION
IF YOU STARE INTO THE ALBATROSS' EYES AFTER INGESTING FLOWER-TOPS FROM THE HEMP PLANT AND A PINT OF WHISKEY YOU WILL SEE GOD.
WHAT IS IT?
THE ALBATROSS
WHERE IS IT
PALNU. UNDER GUARD
SMASHED IN THE PRESENCE OF SUENTEUS PO.
WHO MADE IT
STOP ASKING QUESTIONS IT'S BETTER TO NOT KNOW
FASHIONED BY CIRIN IN HER SILENT INCARNATION

Serious over-plotting, in other words. I went on to write down how each group would answer the question: "What is The Albatross?"

Orthodox Tarimite: "Leave that magic s-t alone – you want another cataclysm?"
Cirinist: "Revelation of Cirin's intentions for women to rule spiritually and politically in Estarcion"
Illusionist: "If you stare into The Albatross' eyes after ingesting flower tops from the hemp plant and a pint of whisky, you will see God."

And then where each group thought The Albatross was:

Orthodox Tarimite: no answer [i.e. see previous answer]
Cirinist: "Palnu. Under guard."
Illusionist: "Smashed in the presence of Suenteus Po."

"Who made The Albatross?"

Orthodox Tarimite: "Stop asking questions. It's better not to know."
Cirinist: "Fashioned by Cirin in her Silent Incarnation."

HSANB 19/27 - Various splash page ideas for "The Kidnapping of An Aardvark" also (in upper right) sketch of a movie poster for HAPPY UNBIRTHDAY PARTY [see HSANB 13/26].

PAGE 4

1 BRUISES [redacted]
2 [redacted] DREW'S WRIST
3 DREW HOLDING HIS WRIST. CEREBUS PICKING UP HAMMERS
4 OVER THE EDGE
5 HELP HIM UP... WE'VE GOT TO BE GOING
6 HELPING FEMALE UP... IF YER TURNIN UP IN MR. UPPER CLASS... WOULD YOU MIND TURNING US TO A PRISON IN GREATER JEST... THEY SERVE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (respectable, gennulman, sir)

PAGE 5.

1) [redacted] HOW MUCH DID YOU FIGURE TO ASK FOR
2) NOTE HERE WITH SPECIFICATIONS
3) READS NOTE [redacted]
4) TAKE 5) YOU SIGNED THE RANSOM NOTE?
6) OF COURSE WE SIGNED IT... HOW ELSE WOULD THEY HAVE KNOWN WHO TA BANG THE MONEY TA? 7) RIGHT LET'S GO.

PAGE 6

1) [redacted] ACTUALLY IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA - YOU JUST NEED SOMEONE TO BE THE BRAINS OF THIS OUTFIT

ENTERING TAVERN GUY KNOWS CEREBUS

1) [redacted] THERE'S SOME MATTRESSES BEHIND THE BAR MOVE THEM IN [redacted] STORE ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS (WHAT ROOM WAS THE THICKEST WALLS? STORE ROOM AT TOP OF THE STAIRS)
2) WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU? bit of a list -- COUPLE OF BIG CANDLES, I WANT SOMEONE POSTED ALWAY FROM REGENCY FRONT ENTRANCE --

HSANB 20/27 - Final outline pages 4-6.

VOLUME ONE

BEFORE CEREBUS DEALS THE CARDS.

A BRIEF PHASE....

at the time that I did the "DIAMONDBACK" story in SWORDS of CEREBUS. it was my intention to just describe the barest outline of rules so that the reader would not feel completely lost in the proceedings. Since then our mail has been riddled with questions about the game and how it works. THE GAME DESCRIBED IN SWORDS VOLUME ONE

[redacted]

WAS ESSENTIALLY A LOWER-MIDDLE CLASS VARIATION POPULAR IN LOWER FELDA, IEST AND OTHER MAJOR POPULATION CENTRES. THE ACT OF DOUBLING THE INITIAL WAGER WAS, IN FACT, A [redacted] PECULIARITY OF THE EMERGING URBAN CENTRES, REFLECTING THE CONCENTRATION OF CURRENCY IN THE DENSELY POPULATED CAPITALS OF THE SOUTHERN CITY STATES. THE MORE MONEY AVAILABLE [redacted] IN A CITY, THE MORE FRENZIED THE BETTING IN ITS LOWER AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS TAVERNS. SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE WE WILL BE PRINTING [redacted] THE OFFICIAL DIAMONDBACK DECK WITH ALL THE MAJOR RULE VARIATIONS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL... UNTIL THEN, HERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE GAME AS PLAYED BY THE ONCIU...

MATCH DIAMONDBACK.

A MATCH DIAMONDBACK DECK CONSISTS OF FOR TWO PLAYERS

ANOTHER DECK OF LUCKY FOR THE MAGICIAN ADDED EACH TIME YOU ADD A PLAYER TO THE GAME UP TO A MAXIMUM OF FOUR

ONE MAGICIAN TWO PRIESTESSES THREE QUEENS FOUR KINGS FIVE QUESTS

EACH PLAYER IS DEALT TWO CARDS [redacted] DEALER WAGERS ONCE. HIS BET IS MATCHED BY EACH PLAYER. HE WAGERS AGAIN. HIS BET IS MATCHED BY EACH PLAYER.

HSANB 21-22/27 - Sometimes I would let the over-plotting go, as in the design of the Diamondback game and its rules. Basically anticipating that the continuity junkies would want to know the rules at some point so I needed to have them all made up in advance. It was the first use of solid text in CEREBUS which would prove controversial. But the continuity junkies needed to be served as well.

MATCH DIAMONDBACK DECK

2 PLAYERS - ONE MAGICIAN 2 PRIESTESSES 3 QUEENS 4 KINGS 5 PRIESTS
3 PLAYERS - ONE MAGICIAN 4 PRIESTESSES 6 QUEENS 8 KINGS 10 PRIESTS
4 PLAYERS - ONE MAGICIAN 6 PRIESTESSES 9 QUEENS 12 KINGS 15 PRIESTS

MATCH DIAMONDBACK HANDS

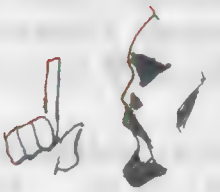
MAGICIAN-PRIESTESS	70 PTS	PRIESTESS-PRIEST	40 PTS.
PRIESTESS-PRIESTESS	65 PTS.	QUEEN-KING	35 PTS.
MAGICIAN-QUEEN	60 PTS.	MAGICIAN-PRIEST.	30 PTS.
MAGICIAN-KING	55 PTS.	QUEEN-QUEEN	25 PTS.
PRIESTESS-KING	50 PTS.	KING-KING	20 PTS.
PRIESTESS-QUEEN	45 PTS.	QUEEN-PRIEST	15 PTS
		KING-PRIEST	10 PTS
		PRIEST-PRIEST.	5 PTS

HAND IS DEALT TO THE DEALER'S RIGHT. TWO CARDS TO EACH PLAYER. DEALER MAKES A WAGER. PLAYERS , . CARD IS EXPOSED BY EACH PLAYER. DEALER MAKES A SECOND MATCH IT WAGER. MATCHED BY EACH PLAYER. SECOND CARD IS EXPOSED. WINNER TAKES THE POT. DEALER CONTINUES AS DEALER UNTIL HE LOSES A HAND. IN THE CASE OF A TIE, THE POT IS CARRIED OVER INTO THE NEXT HAND.* PLAY CONTINUES UNTIL TWO PLAYERS AGREE THE GAME IS OVER. ANY PLAYER LEAVING BEFORE TWO PLAYERS AGREE TO END THE GAME, MUST FORFEIT ALL OF HIS WINNINGS.

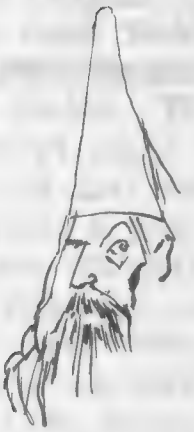
OR BEFORE HE HAS WON ALL THE OTHER PLAYER'S MONEY

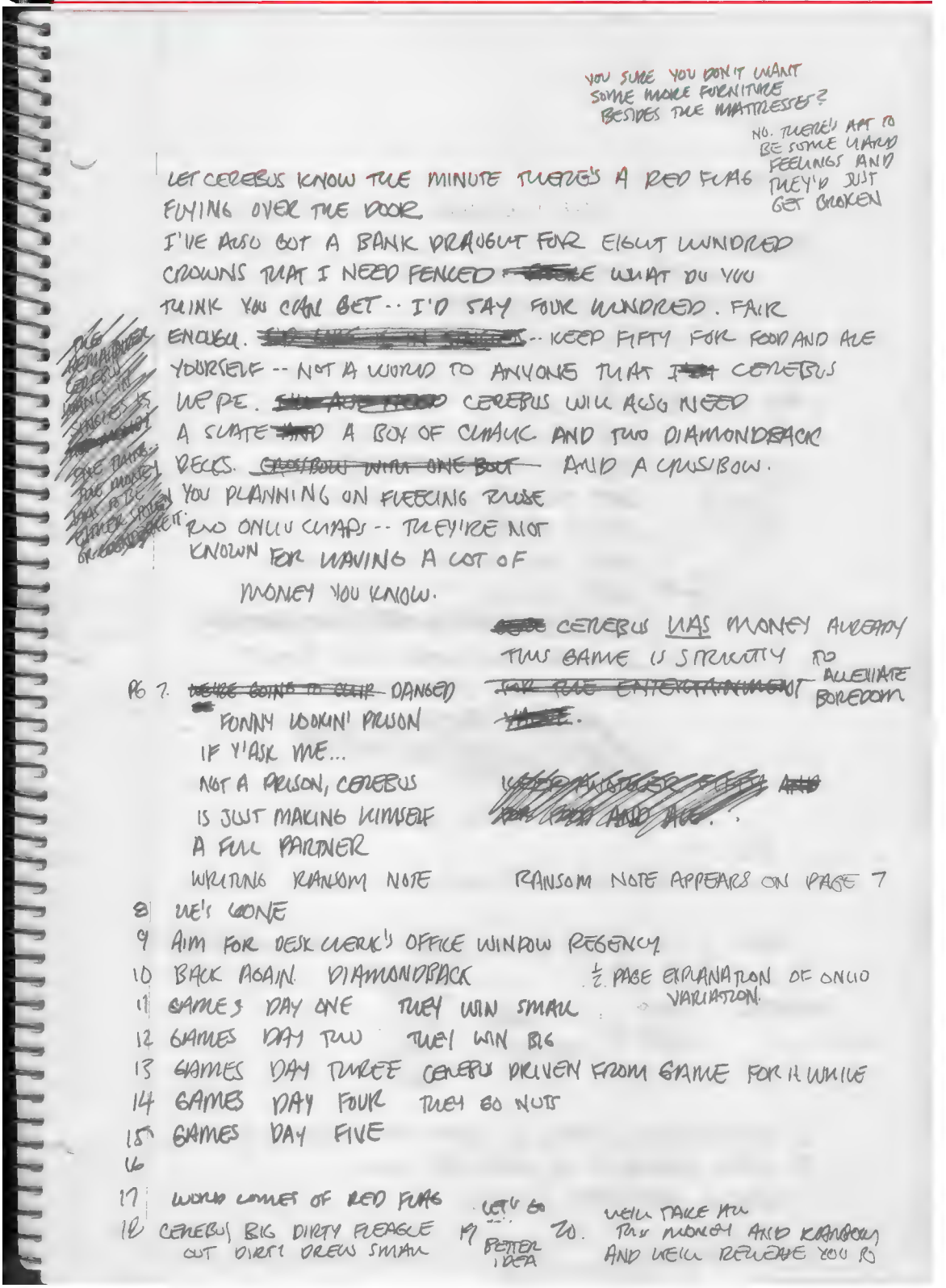
* UNLESS THERE ARE MORE THAN TWO PLAYERS IN WHICH CASE THE POT IS SPLIT BETWEEN THE PLAYERS WHO REMAIN

HSANB 23/27 - Card rules.



MAGICIAN ∞
PRIESTESS ♀
EMPRESS




YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SOME MORE FURNITURE BESIDES THE MATTRESSES?
NO. THERE'S NOT TO BE SOME HARD FEELINGS AND THEY'D JUST GET BROKEN
LET CEREBUS KNOW THE MINUTE THERE'S A RED FLAG FLYING OVER THE DOOR
I'VE ALSO GOT A BANK DRAUGHT FOR EIGHT HUNDRED CROWNS THAT I NEED FENCED [redacted] WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET -- I'D SAY FOUR HUNDRED. FAIR ENOUGH. [redacted] -- KEEP FIFTY FOR FOOD AND ALE YOURSELF -- NOT A WORD TO ANYONE THAT I [redacted] CEREBUS WE'RE. [redacted] CEREBUS WILL ALSO NEED A SLATE [redacted] A BOX OF CHALK AND TWO DIAMONDBACK DECKS. [redacted] AND A CROSSBOW.
YOU PLANNING ON FLEECING ROSE TWO ONLOO CHAPS -- THEY'RE NOT KNOWN FOR HAVING A LOT OF MONEY YOU KNOW.
[redacted] CEREBUS HAS MONEY ALREADY THIS GAME IS STRICTLY TO ALLEVIATE BOREDOM [redacted].
PG 7. [redacted] DANGED FUNNY LOOKIN' PRISON IF Y'ASK ME... NOT A PRISON, CEREBUS IS JUST MAKING HIMSELF A FULL PARTNER WRITING RANSOM NOTE
[redacted]
RANSOM NOTE APPEARS ON PAGE 7
8 HE'S GONE
9 AIM FOR DESK CLERK'S OFFICE WINDOW REGENCY
10 BACK AGAIN. DIAMONDBACK ½ PAGE EXPLANATION OF ONLOO VARIATION.
11 GAMES DAY ONE THEY WIN SMALL
12 GAMES DAY TWO THEY WIN BIG
13 GAMES DAY THREE CEREBUS DRIVEN FROM GAME FOR A WHILE
14 GAMES DAY FOUR THEY GO NUTS
15 GAMES DAY FIVE
16
17 WORLD COMES OF RED FLAG
18 CEREBUS BIG DIRTY FLEAGLE OUT DIRTY DREW SMALL
LET'S GO ... BETTER IDEA
TO. WE'LL TAKE YOU THE MONEY AND RANSOM AND WE'LL RELEASE YOU B

HSANB 24/27 - Another road map for the issue, keeping it strictly to a phrase or two per page.

CUEING.

PAGE 11 EXPLAINS ONCIU VARIATION

DIAMONDBACK
- THEY'RE BETTING THEIR CREDIT.
- CEREBUS IS BETTING CASH
- FIRST HAND THEY EACH WIN ONE CROWN

PAGE NINETEEN -- YES?

CEREBUS DOESN'T LIKE CHEATING EVEN THE ONCES...

BUT THERE WAS A RANDOM SWAPPING.

RED FLAG AT THE REGENCY MCCOMO
DEALS THE PRIESTESS PRIESTESS TO
DIRTY FLEAGLE DIRTY DREW GETS
PRIEST PRIEST.
DREW FOLDS FLEAGLE BETS IT ALL
OKAY WE FOLD THE GAME.
[redacted]
YOUR CASH AND SHARES ARE ALMOST
ONE HUNDRED CROWN NOTES.
(CEREBUS [redacted]
GIVE THE OTHER HANDS

PAGE 20
CEREBUS WINS UNCONSCIOUS

PAGES (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) 4 DAYS 2 PAGES/DAY.

DIAMONDBACK
CEREBUS

HAND # 1
HAND # 30

HAND #
HAND #158

HOLD DREW TO SMALL POINTS
FEED FLEAGLE'S BANKROLL

① CEREBUS THINKING UPDATES ON DEBATE OVER PAYING THE RANSOM
② FLEAGLE GLOATING A LOT AFTER EACH HAND
CEREBUS PROMOTING DISCORD

HSANB 25/27 - How to write a humour comic: write everything without humour and then find the humour in it.

CEREBUS LOSES FLEAGLE WINS DREW WINS
CEREBUS LOSES FLEAGLE WINS DREW LOSES
CEREBUS WINS FLEAGE WINS "
CEREBW LOSES FLEAGLE WINS "
" " " "
CEREBUS WINS FLEAGLE LOSES "

CEREBUS NEEDS ONE OF THEM TO END THE GAME WITH HIM

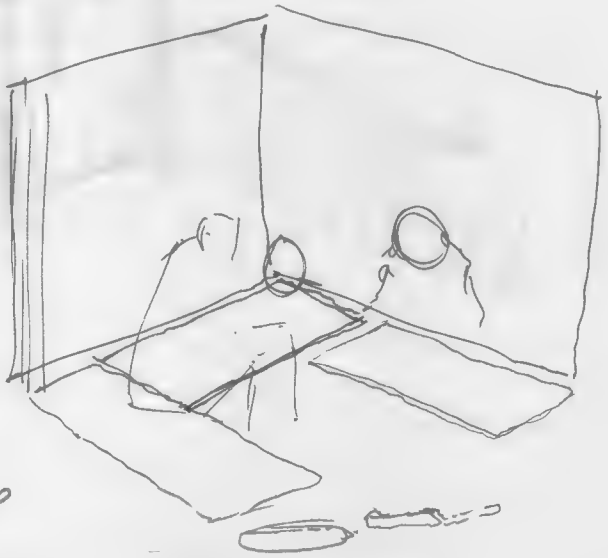
THE SWEET JOY OF WATCHING A GROWN MAN CRUMBLE BEFORE YOUR EYES.

CEREBUS WINS FLEAGLE

FLEAGLE - ANYTHING ~~OVER~~ AND OVER 40/ AND HE GETS BELLIGERENT
" 60 " " GLOATS
" UNDER 40 AND HE FOLDS.

DREW - ANYTHING OVER 40 AND HE GETS QUIET. AND INTROVERTED
ANYTHING OVER 60 AND HE GETS IMPATIENT.
ANYTHING OVER 20 AND HE BLUFFS.
ANYTHING UNDER 20 AND HE FOLDS.

PLAYING ~~AFTER~~ A SUCCESSFUL GAME OF DIAMONDBACK AGAINST ONLIU FREEBOOTERS WAS LARGELY A MATTER OF READING THEIR MOODS

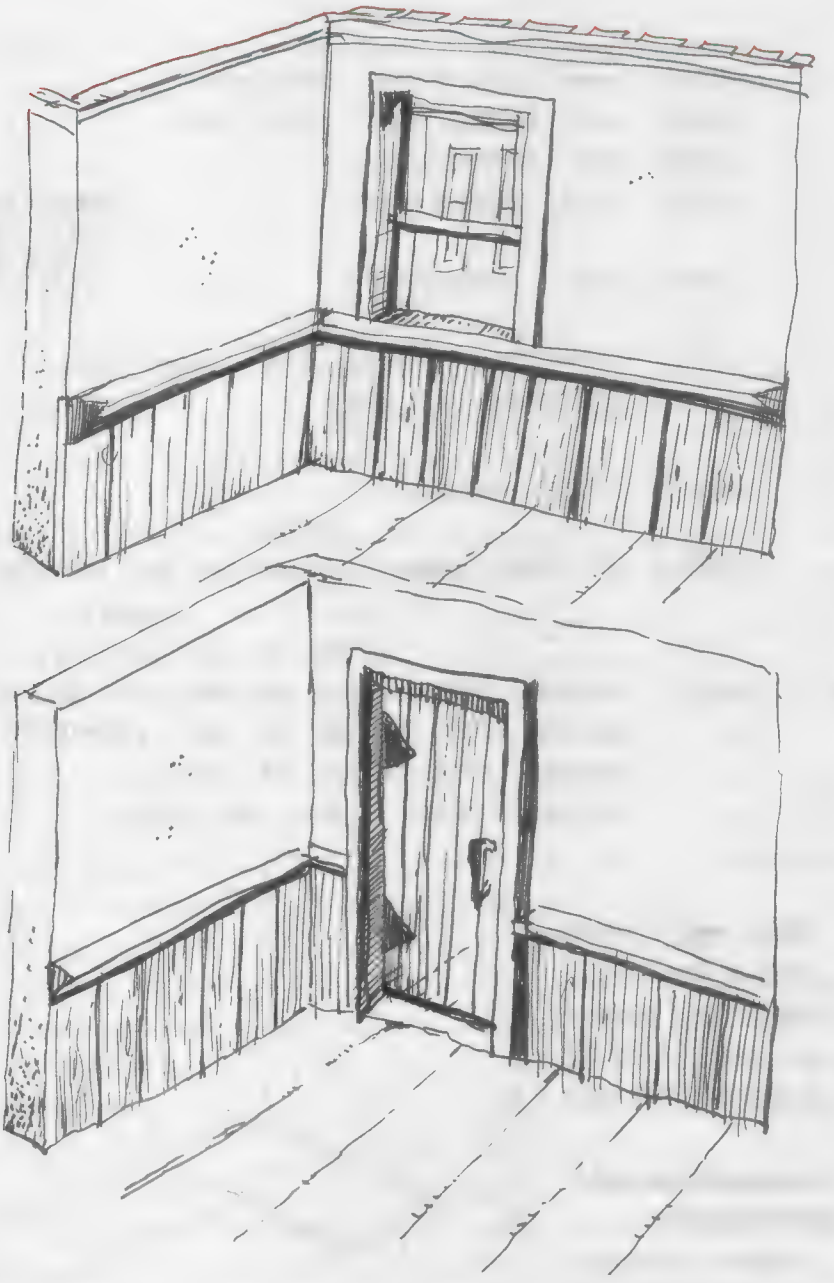


~~[redacted]~~

LARGELY A MATTER OF KEEPING TRACK OF WHAT HANDS PROVOKED WHAT REACTION.

BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, CEREBUS

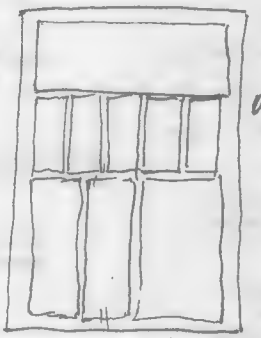
HSANB 26/27 - A good example of the above: mapping out the card-playing idiosyncrasies of the McGrew Brothers as Cerebus picked up on them and then writing how Cerebus "read" his opponents (which made him such a fearsome Diamondback opponent) and then dropping all that in favour of the "nervous tick" gag.



HSANB 27/27 - Backgrouna aes'gns for their room.

TRESHERER OF 1EST
BRING A HUNNERT GOLD ~~PEECES~~ PEESIZ
TO TH DOG AND DUCK OR YULL FIND
TH CRITTER IN LITTLE BITS
COME ALONE

DIRTY FLEAGLE MAGREW
AN HIS BABY BROTHER
DIRTY CREW.



OH I'M FINE
HOW ABOUT YOU.

SAY YOU'RE NOT
PLANNING ON FLEECING
~~THEM~~ THOSE ONCLU
CHAPS AME YOU?

DAY ONE CEREBUS
HELD HOSTAGE

WE'RE NOT
KNOWN TO
~~BE~~ BE WELL
FUNDED

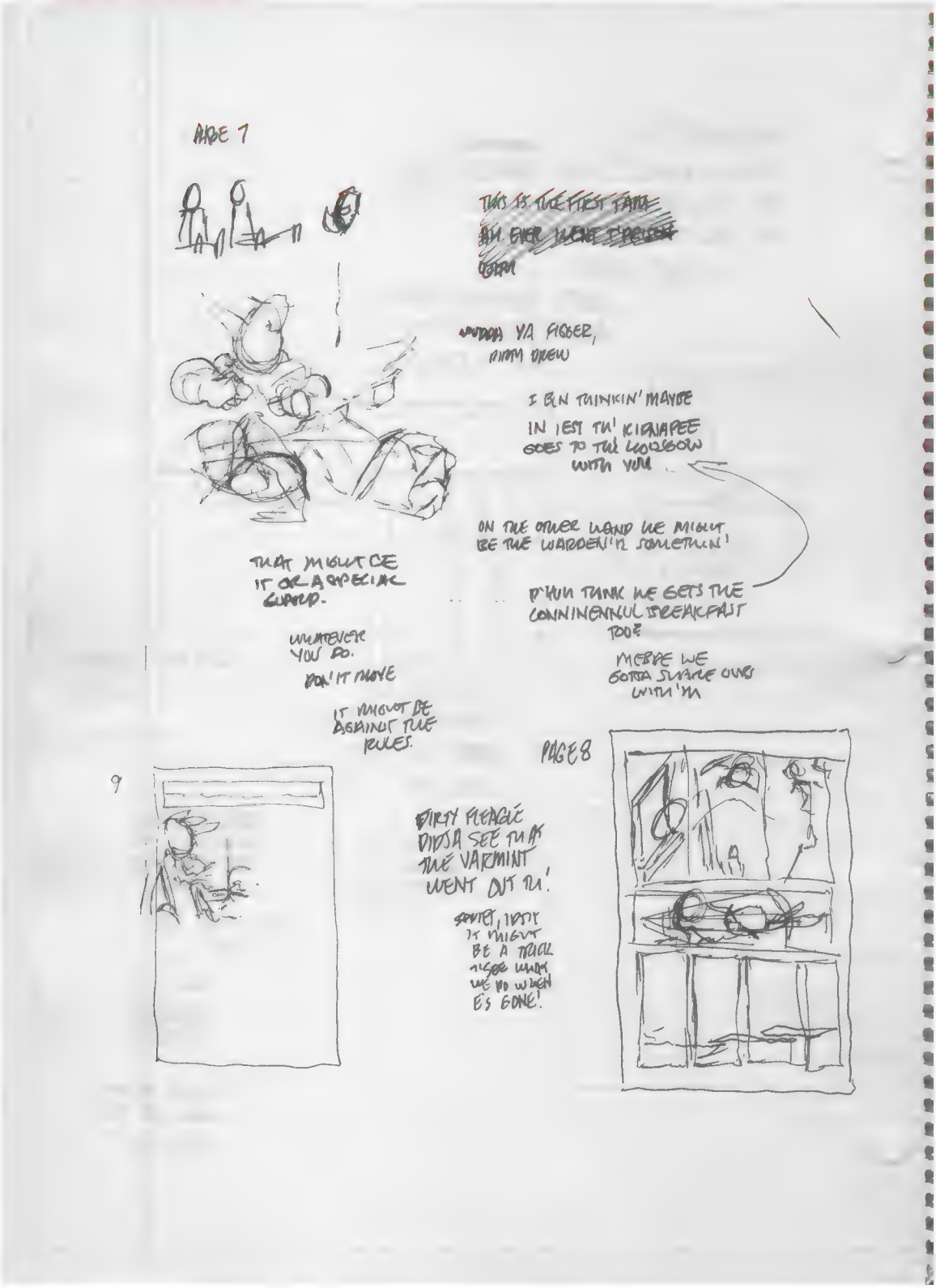
~~CEREBUS IS THE~~
~~ONLY A FEW~~
~~PAGE FOR FREE~~
~~PER YEAR~~

THIS ISN'T FOR
PROFIT

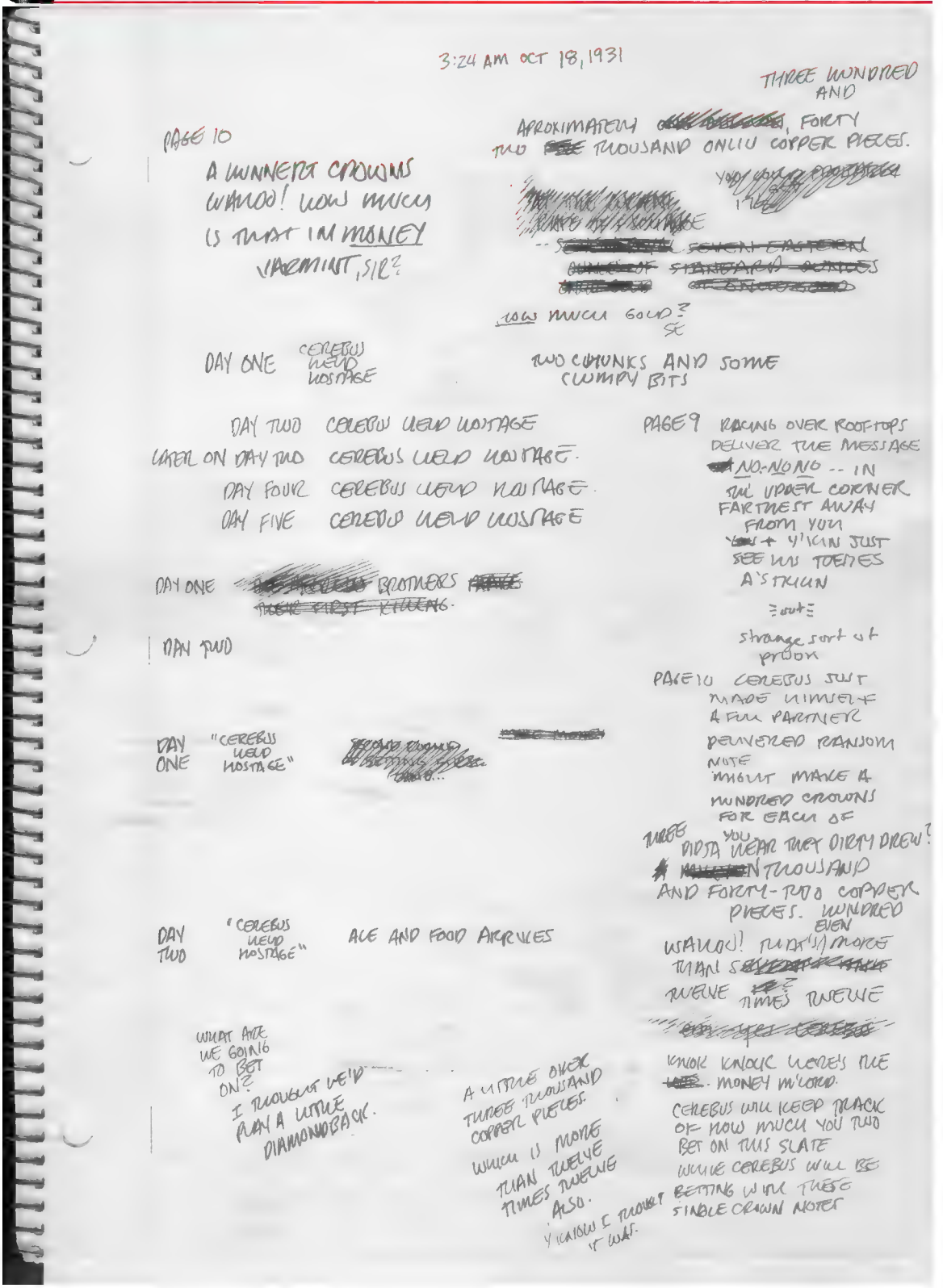
THIS IS TO
ALLEVIATE
BOREDOM

WHERE CEREBUS
WHATS FOR THAT
RED FLAG.

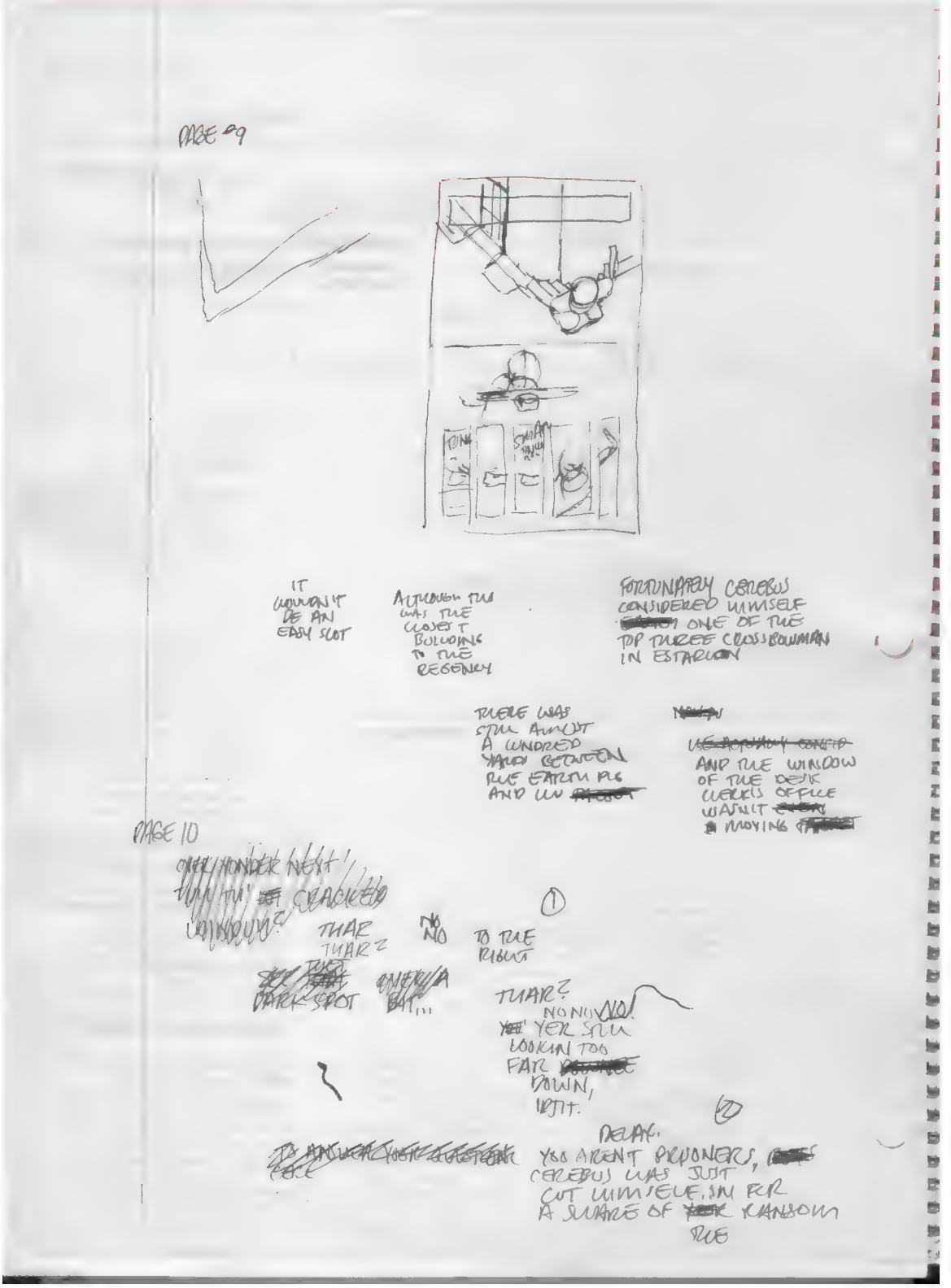
HSANB 28/27 - Sometimes just sketching panel designs can lead to a good idea. Like the horizontal panel at the top of the right hand page which gave me the "CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE" gag.



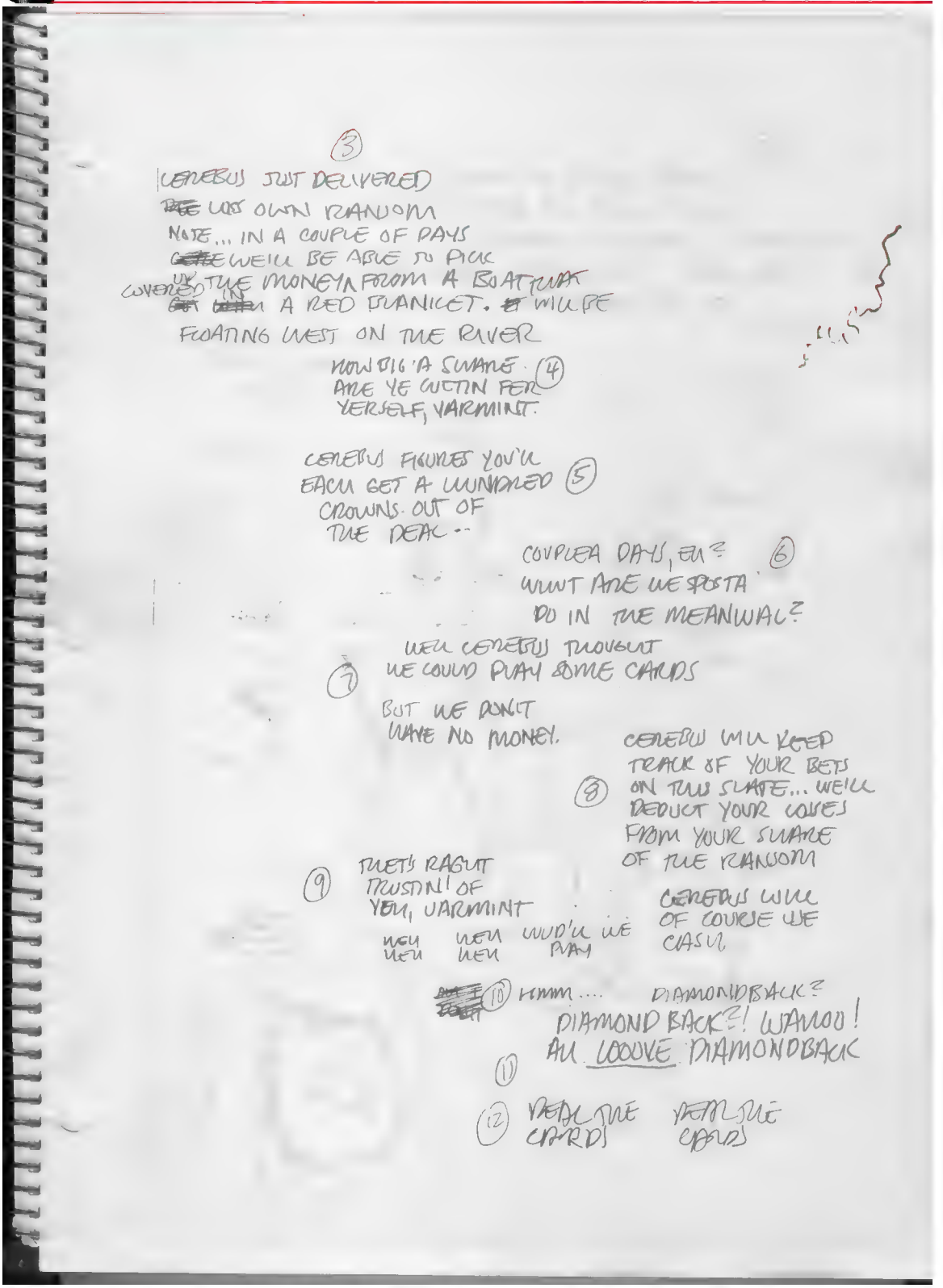
HSANB 29/27 - Pages 7 and 8. Sometimes you "write" a page and sometimes you "draw" a page. Depends on the page.


3:24 AM OCT 18, 1931
PAGE 10
A HUNNERT CROWNS WAHOO! HOW MUCH IS THAT IN MONEY VARMINT, SIR?
THREE HUNDRED AND
APROXIMATELY FORTY
TWO THOUSAND ONLIU COPPER PIECES.
HOW MUCH GOLD? SE
DAY ONE CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE
TWO CHUNKS AND SOME CLUMPY BITS
DAY TWO CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE
LATER ON DAY TWO CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE.
DAY FOUR CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE.
DAY FIVE CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE
DAY ONE BROTHERS
DAY TWO
DAY ONE "CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE"
DAY TWO "CEREBUS HELD HOSTAGE"
ALE AND FOOD ARRIVES
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO BET ON?
I THOUGHT WE'D PLAY A LITTLE DIAMONDBACK.
A LITTLE OVER THREE THOUSAND COPPER PIECES
WHICH IS MORE THAN TWELVE TIMES TWELVE ALSO.
I KNOW I THOUGHT IT WAS.
PAGE 9
RACING OVER ROOFTOPS DELIVER THE MESSAGE
NO-NO NO -- IN THE UPPER CORNER FARTHEST AWAY FROM YOU
I'LL BE JUST SEE MY TOENES A'STICKIN
OUT
STRANGE SORT OF PRISON
PAGE 10 CEREBUS JUST MADE HIMSELF A FULL PARTNER
DELIVERED RANSOM NOTE
MIGHT MAKE A HUNDRED CROWNS FOR EACH OF
THOSE
DIDJA HEAR THEY DIRTY DREW?
THOUSAND
AND FORTY-TWO COPPER PIECES. HUNDRED
WAHOO! THAT'S MORE
TIMES TWELVE
TWELVE TIMES TWELVE
KNOCK KNOCK HERE'S THE MONEY M'LORD.
CEREBUS WILL KEEP TRACK OF HOW MUCH YOU TWO BET ON THIS SLATE
WHILE CEREBUS WILL BE BETTING WITH THESE SINGLE CROWN NOTES

HSANB 30/27 - Then there are times when I would come up with a good line – "A HUNNERT CROWNS! WAHOO! HOW MUCH IS THAT IN MONEY, VARMINT, SIR?" is very funny – but I would have no idea how to follow it up. "42,000 Onliu copper pieces". Well, you'd have to explain to Dirty Fleagle what a "thousand" is. "More than twelve times twelve". Or explain it in terms of gold. "Two chunks and some clumpy bits". That's funny, too, but you can't use it with "money" which is what makes the original line funny. I finally just had to give up.


PAGE 9
IT WOULDN'T BE AN EASY SHOT
ALTHOUGH THIS WAS THE CLOSEST BUILDING TO THE REGENCY
FORTUNATELY CEREBUS CONSIDERED HIMSELF ONE OF THE TOP THREE CROSSBOWMAN IN ESTARIAN
THERE WAS STILL ALMOST A HUNDRED YARDS BETWEEN THE EARTH PIG AND HIS
AND THE WINDOW OF THE DESK WHERE'S OFFICE WASN'T
PAGE 10
THAR
THAR?
NO NO
TO THE RIGHT
THAR?
NO NO NO!
YEH YER STILL LOOKIN TOO FAR
DOWN, IDJIT.
DELAY.
YOU AREN'T PRISONERS,
CEREBUS HAS JUST CUT HIMSELF IN FOR A SHARE OF
THE

HSANB 31/27 - Trying out a different layout for page 9.



HSANB 32/27 - I would "sketch" dialogue as well. Compare these "sketches" with the finished word balloons.

HSANB 33/27 - Sometimes I'd work way ahead as in this page "trying out" the Mary Astor character (the character's name is actually Brigid O'Shaughnessy) and picturing a multi-issue – #28 to 35 "Trail of the Albatross" "riffing" on THE MALTESE FALCON. How about Elrod as THE THIN MAN – all Dashiell Hammett characters? No, all I really needed was Mary Astor doing "Brigid O'Shaughnessy" but I didn't know that yet. "I could feel the persistence of his maleness". Needed work, but I still had a good four months till I needed the finished character for issue #31.

FLEAGLE AND DREW ARE PAINTING PROPAGANDA SLOGANS IN 1ST
CEREBUS WALKING BY LOOKING FOR THEM
ALL TEXT WITH ILLUSTRATIONS ISSUE
DESCRIBING THE MOTORKAPERIOD
CEREBUS IS IN
- magic ~~is just stand~~ has just vanished
CEREBUS is like a turbo charger...last continuity
- villager from whom CEREBUS came from
writing about CEREBUS' origins
- we've been up this high in the evolution of civilization before. Estarcion will cease to exist with FAMINE ~~shortage~~ WARS a hundred years after CEREBUS dies, just about the time the joint develops a PUBLISH or PERISH mentality with widespread development of movable type.
- there is the simultaneous invention of movable type in many of the SOUTHERN CITY STATES Palnu will be one of the last to allow it.

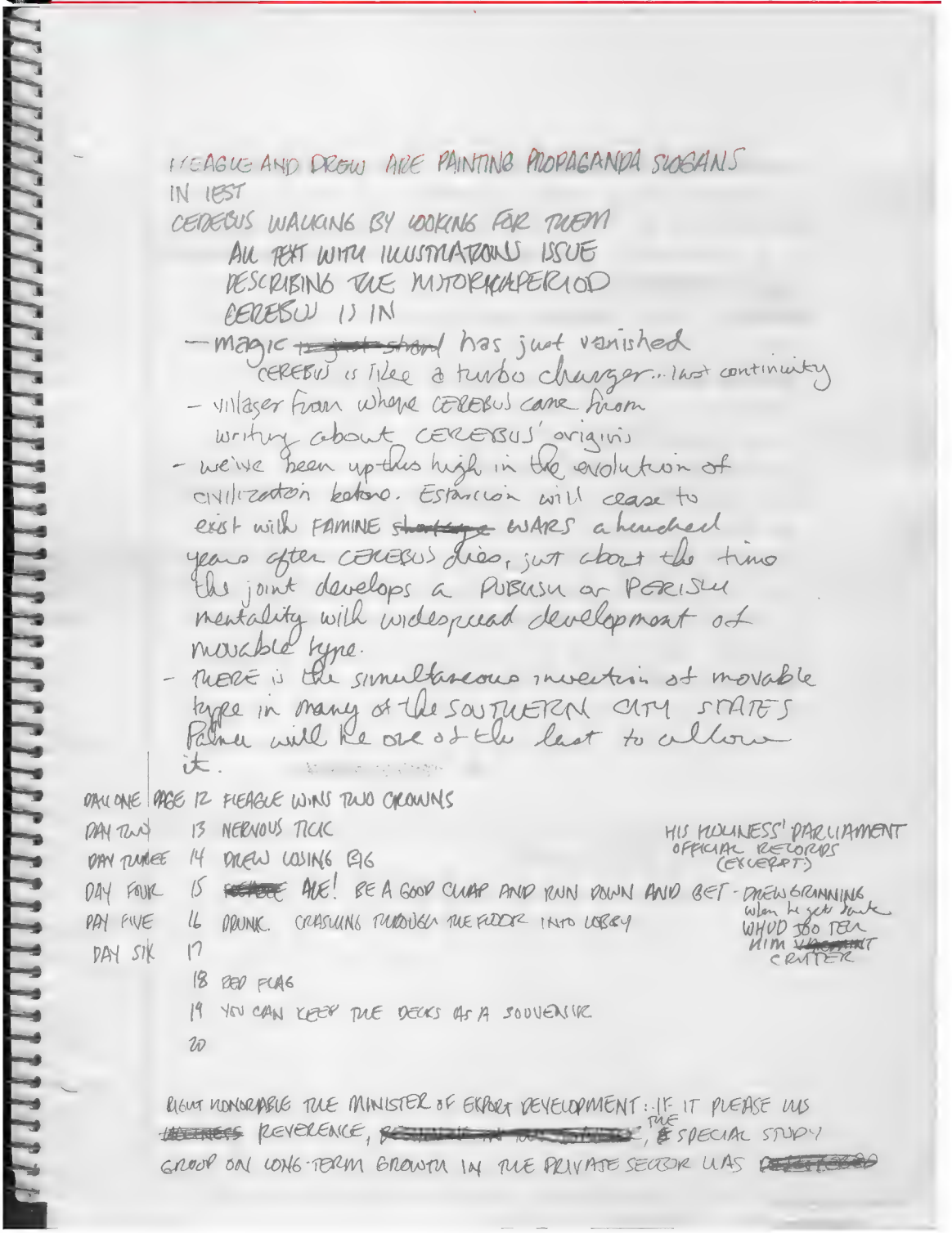
DAY ONE PAGE 12 FLEAGLE WINS TWO CROWNS
DAY TWO 13 NERVOUS TICK
DAY THREE 14 DREW LOSING BIG
DAY FOUR 15 ~~FLEAGLE~~ ALE! BE A GOOD CHAP AND RUN DOWN AND GET - DREW GRUNTING when he was drunk WHUD JOO TEH HIM ~~SHORTHAT~~ CRITTER
DAY FIVE 16 DRUNK. CRASHING THROUGH THE FLOOR INTO LOBBY
DAY SIX 17
18 BED FLAG
19 YOU CAN KEEP THE DECKS AS A SOUVENIR
20

HIS HOLINESS' PARLIAMENT OFFICIAL RECORDS (EXCERPT:)

RIGHT HONORABLE THE MINISTER OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT: IT PLEASE HIS ~~HOLINESS~~ REVERENCE, ~~[illegible]~~, THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON LONG-TERM GROWTH IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS ~~[illegible]~~

HSANB 34/27 More long range planning: I didn't use: 'Fleagle and Drew are painting propaganda slogans in 1st/Cerebus walking by looking for them" as a way of fitting them into the political end of the HIGH SOCIETY storyline. I did use: "magic has just vanished/Cerebus is like a turbo charger...last continuity" that is, Cerebus' magnifier quality explains a lot of what happened just prior to HIGH SOCIETY.

continued...



FEAGLE AND DREW ARE PAINTING PROPAGANDA SLOGANS IN LEST
CEREBUS WALKING BY LOOKING FOR THEM
ALL TEXT WITH ILLUSTRATIONS ISSUE
DESCRIBING THE MOTORHEADPERIOD
CEREBUS IS IN
— magic ~~is just stand~~ has just vanished
CEREBUS is like a turbo charger.. last continuity
— villages from where CEREBUS came from
writing about CEREBUS' origins
— we've been up this high in the evolution of civilization before. Estarcion will cease to exist with FAMINE ~~shortage~~ WARS a hundred years after CEREBUS dies, just about the time the joint develops a PUBLISH or PERISH mentality with widespread development of movable type.
— THERE is the simultaneous invention of movable type in many of the SOUTHERN CITY STATES Palnu will be one of the last to allow it.

DAY ONE PAGE 12 FEAGLE WINS TWO CROWNS
DAY TWO 13 NERVOUS TICK
DAY THREE 14 DREW LOSING $16
DAY FOUR 15 ~~CEREBUS~~ ALE! BE A GOOD CHAP AND RUN DOWN AND GET -
DAY FIVE 16 DRUNK. CRAWLING THROUGH THE FLOOR INTO LOBBY
DAY SIX 17
18 RED FLAG
19 YOU CAN KEEP THE DECKS AS A SOUVENIR
20

HIS HOLINESS' PARLIAMENT
OFFICIAL RECORDS
(EXCERPT:)

DREW DRINKING
when he gets back
WHUD DO TEN
HIM ~~WARRANT~~
CRITTER

RIGHT HONORABLE THE MINISTER OF EXPORT DEVELOPMENT: IF IT PLEASE HIS ~~HELLNESS~~ REVERENCE, ~~[redacted]~~, THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON LONG-TERM GROWTH IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS ~~[redacted]~~

I did use: "We've been up this high in the evolution of civilization before" but not until MINDS.

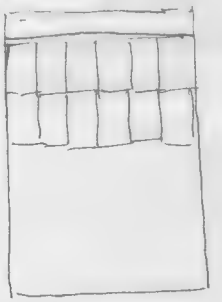
I didn't use: "Estarcion will cease to exist with [the] Famine Wars a hundred years after Cerebus dies, just about the time the joint develops a 'publish or perish' mentality with the widespread development of moveable type." Moveable type would actually make its appearance before the end of HIGH SOCIETY.

I did use: "There is a simultaneous invention of moveable type in many of the Southern City States. Palnu will be one of the last to allow it." That is, Lord Julius was willing to subject lest to competitive broadsheets but not his own city-state.

[redacted] DELIVERED ITS QUARTERLY BUDGET.
YESTERDAY AND WE HAVE DISCOVERED THROUGH A CLOSE
EXAMINATION OF THEIR EXPENSES INCURRED, THAT THERE
IS A CONSIDERABLE [redacted]
A[redacted] EXPENSES AND ERROR IN THEIR CALCULATIONS OF
INCOME
[redacted]6 VERSUS [redacted] EXPENDITURES. WE REGRET TO
INFORM THE HOUSE THAT THIS AMOUNT. [redacted]6
[redacted] COMES TO ALMOST TWELVE THOUSAND
CROWNS.
SOME NON. MEMBERS: oh! oh!
HIS REVERENCE: ORDER, PLEASE
RIGHT HONORABLE THE MINISTER FOR EXPORT DEVELOPMENT.
AN ORDER IN COUNCIL SIGNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER
THIS MORNING AUTHORIZES THE EXECUTION OF THE CHAIRMAN
AND ALL CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP, EXCEPTING
OF COURSE THOSE MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP UNDER THE
PERSONAL PROTECTION OF HIS HOLINESS.
SOME NON. MEMBERS HEAR HEAR

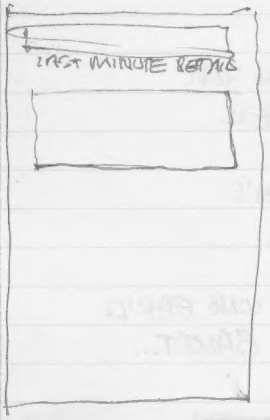
[redacted]

RIGHT NON. THE MINISTER FOR [redacted] IS IT PLEASE YOUR
REVERENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER



HSANB 35/27 - Writing my own Hansard was a lot of fun.

MAY 29 WRITING 30 31
JUNE 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
W W W W W



GAME FUEGUE 2 CROWNS 130 SQUARES
DREW 1 CROWN 30 SQUARES
CEREBUS 40 CROWNS 40 SQUARES

NOW LONG 'FORE ALL BECOME BECUM A ZILLIONAIRE

CEREBUS WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE CLOSE

PAGE 13 SOME HOURS LATER...

SUDDENLY AFTER LUNCH...

COME TWILIGHT...

AW DON'T THINK WE ALL NEED TO WEAR EVER' DAMN YOU WIN ANOTHER LOOSY CROWN...

KIN WE PLAY SUM CARDS OR DO YOU WANT TO COUNT YER MONEY SOME MORE

IS IT STUFFY IN HERE OR IS IT JUST ME

HE'D NEED A HORSE FOR EACH OF THEM. IF THERE WAS NO TROUBLE, WE WOULD PAY OFF PYRM FUEGUE WITH A COUPLE OF BEJEWELED CROWNS AND BE ON MY WAY

SUDDENLY BEFORE NOON
SOMETIME AFTER DUSK
SUDDENLY, THAT EVENING
MOMENTS LATER

FUEGUE
WHILE WITH BREED MAKES IT OVER...

AS FOR YOU WELL, HERE'S A FEW CROWNS...AND WARM FEELINGS mm?

WELL I GUESS WE CAN WRAP UP THE GAME...
wuh?

Y'CONE-EAR'D GALOOT.

GO AND GET YOUR SQUARE OF THE RANSOM...YOU'LL BE RICH INDEED, FUEGUE

IF SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND WE RAN ACROS SOME SECRET SERVICE AGENTS OR A MERCENARY BOARD, WE'D TURN FUEGUE IN AND RETURN TO THE REGENCY. AS HIS KIDNAPPER

HSANB 36/27 - I'd make up my own calendar to make sure I had enough time to do the issue while taking most weekends off. Here, writing May 29, 30 and 31 and June 1-5. By the time I actually got to the weekend I usually still had to work most or all of Saturday.

SUAPA WE GO...
WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A RIDE AHEAD OF US... UH-HUH...
~~OK~~ ON THE OTHER HAND
EVEN AS CEREBUS TURNS...
WHAMP
WE CAN ~~[redacted]~~ RETURN YOU
AN KEEP THE RASOM FER
OURSELFS...
NO HARD FEELIN'S
A N HOPE
Y'I LONG FAR'D
GALOOT...
MOMENTS LATER
① ~~[redacted]~~
YOU'LL BE RICH
HUNH OH...
YEAH RICH
CAPTION:
② IN THE NEXT INSTANT
HERE FOR YOU...
③ PRESENTLY...
④ BEFORE CEREBUS CAN TURN.

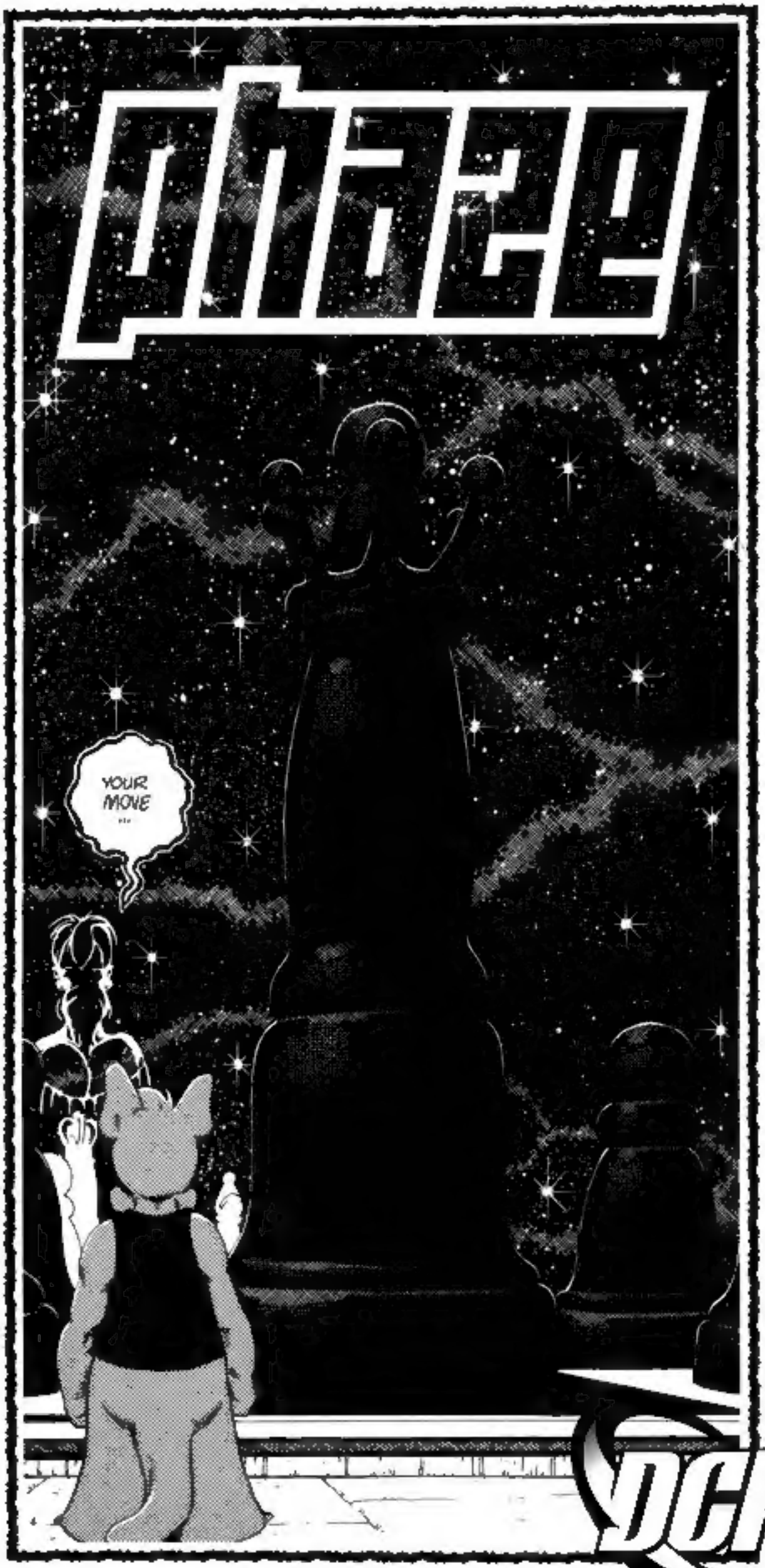
ISSUE 28 IN BETWEEN REGENCY AND OLD FRIENDS
HOTEL #20 STYLE TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS
TALKING TO SUENTEUS PO ABOUT STUFF...
#28 CEREBUS' REACTION TO HIGH SOCIETY IN TEXT.
#29 BRING CEREBUS PROOF OF THE GUILT OF THE OTHER GUY
AND CEREBUS WILL HAVE
HIS ASS NAILED AND YOU'LL
BE OFF THE HOOK
#29 LAZY SUMMER AFTERNOONS AT THE REGENCY.

28 She and Strength
29 She and the Hermit

HSANB 37/27 - At the bottom of the page: trying to get a jump on issues 28 and 29. Even though I usually didn't have a clear idea of exact contents until I was actually working on the issue it was confidence-building to pretend I did.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church
tate
church
tate
JAKA
STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
NICK'S
STORY
GOING
HOME
FARM
VOID
LATTER
DAYS
THE
LAST
DAY

phase



DCP